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Monday March 25 1996

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The great gallery trek

G2 with European weather



Matthew Engel sees the Left left behind

Decline of a protest symbol

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Media

Working in a war zone

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NHS to sell private care plans

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

SOME National Health Service trust hospitals are drawing up plans to market their own brands of private health insurance in a move that is certain to cause an outcry.

The trusts are discussing ideas ranging from "health care clubs", which would offer members fast-track treatment on public wards, to full-blown health insurance through private patient units, it is disclosed today.

Private health insurance marketed under the name of an individual NHS hospital would represent an enormous symbolic change.

Critics of the Government's health market system, which next week celebrates its fifth anniversary, will say it proves that trusts are a stepping stone to privatisation.

Alan Milburn, a Labour shadow health minister, said: "The core NHS principle of treatment being dictated by clinical need will be a thing of the past."

Ministers must reject this privatisation plan if the NHS is to survive as a genuine public service."

The proposals for trust-brand health insurance are outlined by George Orros, chief executive of the Health Consultants in an article in the 1996 edition of the authoritative Fitzhugh Directory of NHS Trusts.

The directory shows that the 496 NHS trusts operating in Britain and Northern Ireland in 1994/95 together made £186.2 million by treating

Austin

CAN YOU SEE THE SMALL PRINT?



private patients. Although this was only 0.9 per cent of total core income, it was a highly significant factor for some hospitals.

The Guy's and St Thomas's trust, south London, made almost £10 million from private patients, while the Royal Marsden in west London made 17 per cent of its core income in this way and the Wrightington hospital, Lancashire, almost 11 per cent.

Mr Orros says he expects trusts, in partnership with insurance companies, to start within two years to market innovative insurance schemes.

He outlines four types of cover:

- Health care clubs, giving members privileges such as additional, non-NHS clinics and shorter waiting times.
- Health and care cash clubs, paying "relatively small" cash sums to members in the event of them needing treatment requiring time off work or family care responsibilities.

Complementary plans, offering private treatment of conditions no longer treated on the NHS because of rationing by the local health authority.

"Gold plans", offering comprehensive care at the trust's private patient unit or should it be needed, another private facility.

Such schemes will be marketed by individual trusts in the first instance, the article says.

Eventually, however, there may be potential to offer an "NHS trust branded product with national coverage" by linking a network of schemes.

"The development of this market has the potential to lead to the generation of long-term, sustainable income streams for NHS trusts," the article says.

Mr Orros told the Guardian his company had for some time been in discussion with a number of trusts, mostly in England and typically those with an actual or potential shortage of funds.

Several insurers had been involved in talks but larger companies had proved hesitant, fearing trust-branded schemes would undermine their own products.

"One or two of the ideas would require approval from the NHS executive, particularly on fast-tracking," Mr Orros said. "That one was actually put to the executive. I think a number of people on the executive feel it is a bit sensitive this side of the general election."

A Department of Health spokeswoman said the executive knew of no plan for trust-branded health insurance. She could not comment further.



An Aston Villa fan celebrates his team's crushing 3-0 victory over Leeds United in yesterday's Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley, guaranteeing them a place in next season's UEFA Cup. Report, page 16

Test for baby's 'right to die'

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

DOCTORS caring for a severely brain-damaged three-month-old girl are to ask the High Court to let them switch off the ventilator keeping her alive, in a case which could lay down guidelines for up to 1,000 cases a year.

England's senior family judge, who will hear the case within the next few weeks, has decided it should be heard in open court, unlike most cases involving children, because of its public interest. Doctors hope it will give guidance for paediatricians faced with life-or-death decisions on whether to treat brain-damaged newborns.

These could distinguish between cases in which doctors can decide themselves in consultation with parents, and those where the issues are less clear cut, where a court application may be needed.

The baby girl, from the north of England, is a ward of court and cannot be identified. Born nine weeks prematurely, she is prone to fits and thought to be blind and deaf. Doctors believe she suffers pain and distress when the tube connecting her to the ventilator has to be unblocked.

The case, to be heard within weeks by Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court's family division, follows the death from natural causes of Thomas Creighton, the brain-damaged two-year-old whose parents were planning to ask the court to allow him to die.

Where the outlook for a newborn baby seems hopeless, doctors are often uncertain whether to withhold treatment after discussions with the parents, or seek permission from a court to do so.

The issue has come to a head because more very premature babies are surviving, and because of the House of Lords ruling over the Hills-turn to page 2, column 3



Whoopi Goldberg

Rage of black showbiz stars causes Jackson to think again over plan for Oscars demo

Christopher Reed on offstage drama

THE REV Jesse Jackson has called off his plans for a demonstration at tonight's Oscars ceremony in Los Angeles over the lack of black nominees for the awards.

This follows an angry reaction to his proposal by the prominent black entertainers, Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah Winfrey, both of whom are involved in this year's Oscars show.

Ms Goldberg herself a target of black criticism in the past for her allegedly stereotypical screen roles — said that the protest was inappropriate and Mr Jackson should have been celebrating black achievements. It is Ms Goldberg's second stint as Oscar night host, and this year's show is produced by the black

composer Quincy Jones. Talk show hostess Ms Winfrey, who will interview celebrities during the ceremony, said yesterday: "I got on the phone to Quincy [about the Jackson protest] and believe me, he was furious. With lots of black and ethnic performers in this year's show, this just isn't the time if ever you were going to do it."

Mr Jackson has called off the demonstration outside the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in central Los Angeles, but he will instead direct "busloads" of intending protesters to the premises in Los Angeles and other US cities of affiliates ABC, the TV network screening the Oscar gala.

Mr Jackson's anger was sparked by the fact that only one black person has been nominated among the 166 contenders for awards, the short film writer-director Dianne Houston.

His supporters have been distributing multi-coloured ribbons, meant to express sympathy for his multi-racial Rainbow Coalition organisation, in the hope that they will be worn by those at the Oscars show.

As for the awards themselves, Hollywood observers agree there is no obvious winner like last year's Forrest Gump, Braveheart and Apollo 13 are considered favourites for best picture.

The only real certainty for an Oscar is considered to be Nicolas Cage as best actor for Leaving Las Vegas.



Oprah Winfrey

Cabinet anguishes over scientists' beef plans

John Mullin, Rebecca Smithers and Paul Brown

CABINET ministers are to hold an emergency meeting this morning to discuss scientists' critical recommendations on the risk to children of eating British beef, in a bid to prevent a further loss of public confidence in the meat industry.

The Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, was told last night of the findings of the Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee and will brief colleagues before making a Commons statement this afternoon.

With the beef industry reeling from the decision by the McDonald's fast food chain not to use British beef, the 13-strong committee whose advice last week led to the Government's admission of a possible link between mad cow disease and its human equivalent, spent the weekend at the Civil Service College in Sunningdale, Berkshire, deliberating over its advice.

The issue most worrying ministers is whether children are more prone to Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease, the human

equivalent of BSE, more than are adults.

Mr Dorrell told the Commons last week that 10 people under the age of 42 who had contracted the new strain of CJD had probably done so from infected beef. Most of the victims so far have all been much younger than typical, which means they contracted the disease as children or teenagers.

Mr Dorrell said it had decided to stop serving beef burgers until Thursday, after which meat will be supplied from the Netherlands, because customers were "bewildered and confused".

Burger King and other chains are awaiting developments. "We remain confident in the quality and high standards of our products," said a spokesman for Burger King.

"However, the apparent lack of consumer confidence in British beef is obviously of great concern to us."

The European Commission's scientific and veterinary committee will meet in Brussels today to discuss the boycott of British beef by all EU countries except Ireland and Denmark.

At the same time, the first programme of mass slaughtering of cattle in Britain

30 years appeared to move closer last night as Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, indicated that the Government was considering a plan to kill cows over 30 months old.

Mr Hogg is looking at the proposal unveiled by Labour to slaughter those herds with the highest percentages of BSE-infected cattle.

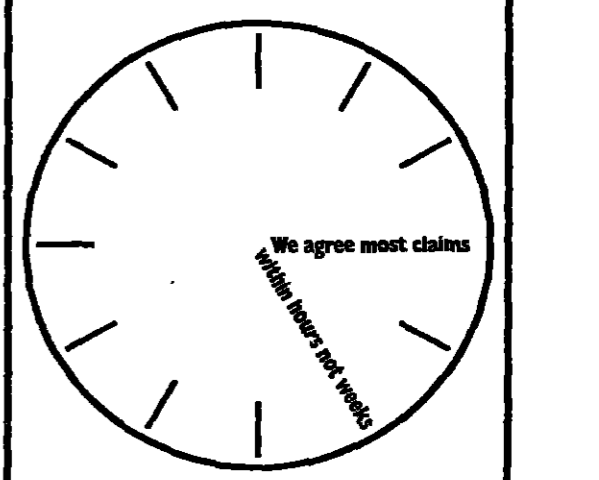
The last mass slaughter of cattle was almost 30 years ago, when 42,000 cattle were killed after an outbreak of food and mouth disease.

Compensation to farmers then came to £27 million, but any package now might cost the Treasury at least £1 billion.

That would have serious knock-on effects for the Government in terms of the scope for tax cuts and the balance of trade.

Demand for beef has crashed since last Wednesday when Mr Dorrell announced the reversal of the Government's line and conceded there might be a link between eating infected beef and contracting CJD. Estimates suggest purchases are down by a third.

Beef crisis, page 5; Leader comment and letters, page 8



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The Government has drawn up proposals to encourage single mothers-to-be to consider handing over their babies for adoption
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Protest locale that can't square the circle

Turn-out for anti-racist demo is meagre, but maybe Nelson's Column is no longer a fitting backdrop for radical causes



Matthew Engel

THE instruction to meet by Temple Tube station at 12.30pm on Saturday. It was now 12.30. A few people began wondering if they might have made a mistake. But in that case the police had made a mistake, too. Dozens of them waited on horseback, strolled up and down the street, or sat, lounging and yawning, on the coach parked up the road.

And there was the clinking evidence. Propped against the railings in front of Smith & Nephew PLC's corporate headquarters were dozens of placards announcing the theme of today's demonstration. Nearby was Marc Wadsworth, the organiser, looking harassed. "I hope you'll report that the sabotage worked," he said. This was the Trump the Race Card demonstration, from

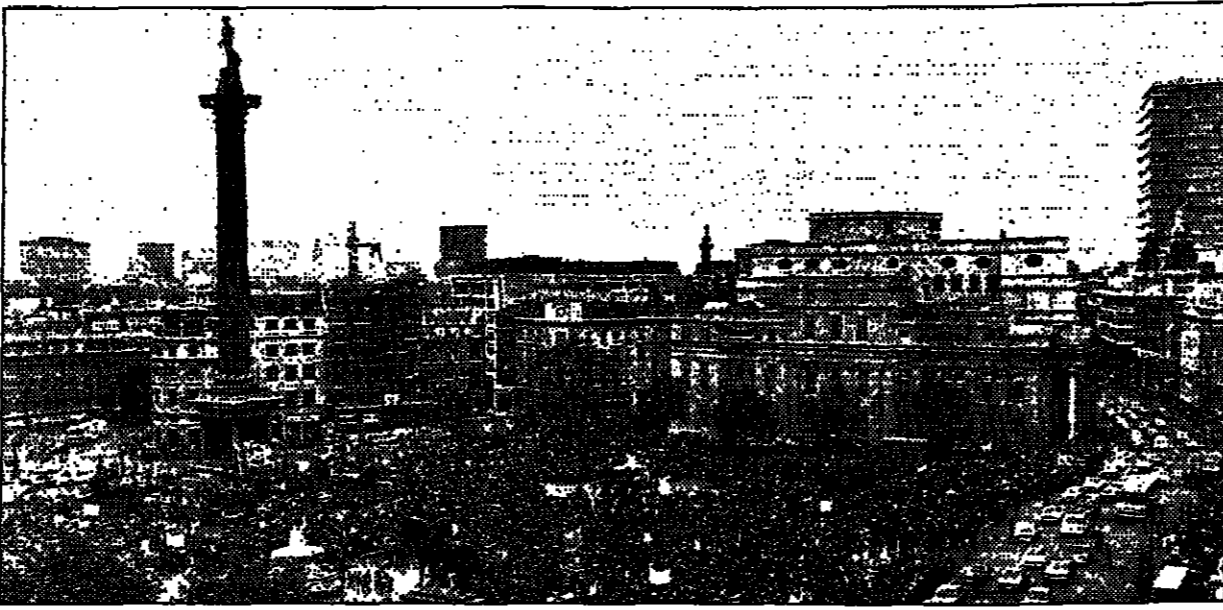
Temple to Trafalgar Square, organised by the Anti-Racist Alliance (ARA). It was designed largely to show solidarity between the Alliance and the Muslim community, some of whose leaders claim to have been neglected and marginalised by other anti-racist groups. Whatever the rights and wrongs of this dispute, it was impossible not to feel sorry for everyone involved.

Eventually, Mr Wadsworth was obliged to speak to the superintendent on duty. He was told the protest could proceed — on the pavement. It was a humiliating moment. "There are still people arriving," he said. This was true, but an equal number were probably drifting away. "It's got to get a lot bigger than this to warrant putting into place the traffic plan," replied the superintendent.

Advances publicity had suggested 5,000 might turn up; the police were told to expect 1,000. Afterwards the organisers claimed 500 and the police said 100.

As the march passed under Hungerford Bridge — on the pavement, as instructed — I counted 250, precisely the same as the number of police originally on hand.

It was a pleasant springtime stroll and an entirely peaceful protest. The major problem



The way it was... A 1980 CND rally brought the crowds to Trafalgar Square

came when the gold-tasseled banner of the T&G's Ford, Dagenham, branch got tangled up with the overhanging branches of the plane trees. So it was not news. But maybe a fiasco like this says more about the nature of protest in Britain than many more successful demos. It certainly says something about the British Left, in

whose bands the most unanswerable cause can turn into a mish-mash of vituperative claim and counter-claim.

The sabotage alleged by Mr Wadsworth was supposed to have come from the TUC, which withdrew its support because it did not get an assurance that there would be no speaker who supported

Hamas. The ARA said there was never going to be a speaker supporting Hamas, and it was a set-up.

But most of the people I met seemed unaware of this dispute, never mind its nuances. One elderly gentleman told me he marched for anything. "Anything?" "Anything working-class," he said. There

may have been another factor: that Trafalgar Square itself, after a century and a half as the focal point for British left-wing protest, is losing its allure. The sight of marchers and banners no longer stirs the blood.

There was always a paradox here. This is the historic rallying point for the great socialist and anti-imperialist

causes: Chartism, the late-Victorian unemployment crusades, the hunger marches, CND. "Yet the square," as its historian, Rodney Mace, points out, "is an impenitent and rather vulgar commemorative edifice to both men and events which had, by force of arms, extended the hegemony of British capital over large areas of the globe."

There is, of course, no right to demonstrate in the British constitution because the British constitution, such as it is, confers no rights. There is merely an absence of prohibition.

And in our very British way, what has emerged is a compromise — slightly tilted the Government's way by such laws as the Public Order Act but in essence not disallowing marches that do not frighten the horses. Which usually means confining them to the weekend when the politicians are not even around.

Curiously, at Horse Guards, the duty nags did get a little unnerved by Saturday's small band, the result of everyone being forced on to the pavement while chanting "Michael Howard. He's a coward" and "Britain's police, racist police," which the handful of policemen left on duty accepted phlegmatically.

We had been through the empty ritual of pausing opposite the gates of Downing Street while a deputisation handed in a message. Then we were escorted to the foot of Nelson's Column. There were the usual succession of speakers, including controversial figures like the Saudi dissident Professor Al-Mass'ari and the Muslim leader Dr Kalim Siddiqui. But no one sounded inflammatory. They were merely unfocused, flailing at a variety of targets over a wide range of grievances.

By now, the audience had grown, but only because the microphones put the speakers within earshot of thousands of tourists, who seemed aware that they were watching an ancient British ritual but were probably uncertain whether it was Speakers' Corner or dancing round the maypole.

Undeniably, this was an object lesson in how not to make an impact.

The public, black and white, needs a clear and comprehensible message. That is best reinforced by a powerful, appropriate and unacknowledged television backdrop: the treetops of Newbury, the port of Brightlingsea, even the streets of Brixton. Trafalgar Square's day may be done.

City poll on minimum wage dampens offensive Labour vulnerable in jobs campaign

LABOUR will today attempt to seize back the political initiative by launching a major campaign to highlight how economic insecurity has grown under the Conservative government despite the publication of MORI poll findings that the Opposition's own policies could lead to heavy job losses.

Fairy leader Tony Blair, shadow chancellor Gordon Brown and shadow trade and industry secretary Margaret Beckett will lead the campaign to highlight how 10.5 million people — one quarter of the working population — have experienced unemployment since the 1992 general election.

They will hammer home their point by using detailed analysis of the job market to illustrate how a further 2 million jobs could go before Britain goes to the polls for the next election.

Labour's analysis reinforces earlier employment studies showing an increasing trend away from secure, full-time jobs towards part-time work and temporary contracts. Since 1992, for example, around 300,000 more temporary jobs have been created, and this sector has expanded by nearly 20 per cent in the last year alone.

But Labour could be forced on to the defensive by today's publication of an authoritative poll by MORI and the 31 firm of venture capitalists which claims that the opposition's commitment to a minimum wage could result in more job losses.

The poll of more than 1,000 small and medium sized businesses shows that traditionally Tory voting entrepreneurs are now convinced that Labour will win the next election. Its findings are endorsed by the City firm of Flemings, which over the weekend unveiled its own analysis of how a change of government will affect investor confidence.

But the MORI survey found

that three in every 10 firms surveyed fears that it could be forced to shed staff if Labour introduced a minimum £4-an-hour wage, the survey said.

Worst hit appear to be firms in the North, where 60 per cent of businesses claim that a minimum wage could result in job shedding.

Up to 3.5 million employees currently earn less than £4 an hour, according to the Flemings report, which warns that the proposed minimum wage represents a "threat to UK business."

It adds: "Labour have used an esoteric academic study to argue that a minimum wage would not result in job losses, but privately concede that some employment loss is inevitable."

The report concluded that Labour was likely to win the election but the City "remains much more sceptical" than the electorate in regard to Labour's competence in running the economy.



Elite police officers guard Taiwan's beaming president, Lee Teng-hui, as he celebrates Saturday's landslide election victory

Stepping out, clogging it and a touch of post-modernism

FIRST NIGHT at the Percussive Feet Festival at the Cochrane Theatre

JUDITH MACKRELL

STEPPING a tune is how American clogger Ira Bernstein defines the magic of percussive dance. And as this week's Percussive Feet festival shows, that magic can occur in dances as varied as tap, Kathak, clogging and stepping. Bernstein himself — a fresh-faced regular guy with extremely tuneful feet — was both MC and opening act for the festival's first show and his set was full of revelations. He told us about a Durham hornpipe that used to be danced on a pedestal to ensure that the dancers stayed on the spot. Then he did it himself, knitting his feet through asoundingly complex patterns without dropping a stitch. John Kirk played banjo for an Appalachian clog dance, spinning such intense variations from the music it sounded like a sitar, then Cornal Fowles played the "Stomach Steinway" for a French-Canadian dance in which Bernstein's clogs clacked so passionately they sounded like a lament.

After Bernstein came Sue MacLennan's Off Your Clogs

11, a kind of post-modern clog dance, which started with barefoot dancers doing light and stretchy moves, then grounding themselves as they put on their clogs. Some passages developed an engaging combative energy as the dancers stamped and swung their legs.

But MacLennan's exploration of the language of clogs could only look sketchy after Bernstein's mastery, and even more so compared with the jazz tapper Tobias Tak.

Tak sang and danced to the old songs (Fats Waller et al), charmingly clogging up their wit and romance. Like Bernstein, he's a bit of a pedagogue, and during a homage to Bill "Bojangles" Robinson he explained how Robinson turned (ap from a flat-footed cousin of clogging to a dance that went up on its toes. As Tak danced the transition, you saw his whole action change from a sturdy springing to the dangling-legged, feet-footed pattering of Fred Astaire. But this was just one moment in a set whose energy was outrageous and whose dancing contagious.

Tak made his feet chatter and swoon, he made them sound like tambourines, pistol shots and drums, he made them romantic and witty. He didn't just step a tune, he danced an entire Broadway musical.

Doctors ask court to rule on baby's 'right to die'

DOCTORS have asked a court to rule on a baby's "right to die" in cases where the child is born with a severe brain defect.

A spokesman for the British Medical Association said: "In the light of recent cases, doctors accept that the courts should play a role in cases like this, in setting clear parameters for doctors dealing with these cases... Our concern is that doctors do not have to resort to a court of law every time they are faced with these kinds of difficult decisions."

In two other cases, the courts have held that brain-damaged babies should be allowed to die, but without laying down principles for future cases.

In one case, where the baby's brain was largely destroyed and she would have died within weeks, the Appeal Court left it up to doctors to decide on her treatment. In the other, the court held that a blind, deaf and paralysed five-month-old need not be put on a ventilator if he stopped breathing.

Neil McIntosh, chairman of the British Paediatric Association's ethics committee, said doctors tended to put very premature babies on a ventilator and review their progress later, rather than withholding treatment at birth.

His committee, which has consulted widely, is drawing up guidelines to help doctors decide whether to withdraw or withhold treatment. These are expected to be finalised within six months.

Prof McIntosh said: "It's a very difficult task. At the moment we play God. We have an experience going back to when we tried to save them all, and we have seen the outcome was pretty bleak for some."

Nervous China leaned on British poll monitors

CHINA has been so unsettled by Taiwan's rapid transition from dictatorship to democracy that it put heavy pressure on observers from Britain to stay away from a presidential poll which has been hailed as the first time a Chinese society has ever elected its leader.

"We were told it was not an appropriate time to come to Taiwan," Bill Miller, a member of the European parliament for Glasgow, said. "There were Chinese officials going around parliament telling us to cancel. I can't think of a more appropriate time to be here. This is a historic occasion."

Eleven Labour and socialist MEPs ignored the Chinese lobbying, said to involve threats that they would have problems if they ever intend to visit China. The parliament had previously passed two resolutions condemning China's pre-election war games.

Chinese dissidents exiled since the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre and members of a Hong Kong legislature destined for oblivion after the territory is handed over to China in 1997, celebrated Saturday's four-man race — won by a wide margin by President Lee Teng-hui — as proof that the cause of democracy in China is far from doomed.

"It is tremendous," said Christine Loh, a Hong Kong legislator in Taipei for the election. "This is part of the making of modern China. How can anyone say democracy is not suitable for Chinese. All the argu-

'Chinese officials were going around parliament telling us to cancel. I can't think of a more appropriate time to be here'

'The Communist Party is most afraid that Mr Democracy may one day come to the'

States and China, which sought to menace voters through missile tests, war games and tough rhetoric.

So touchy is Beijing about democracy that in brief reports on Taiwan's vote, state-controlled Chinese media declined even to acknowledge that an election had taken place. The People's Daily, the organ of the Chinese Communist Party, referred to the poll as "the activity by which a change of Taiwan's regional leader was engendered."

Among exiled dissidents who have converged on Taipei are the 1989 Beijing student leaders Chai Ling and Li Lu. They said the poll vindicated their strategy.

Su Shaozhi, the former head of the Marxism-Leninism Institute in Beijing, found encouragement in Taiwan's reforms for his own attempts to reconcile Marxism with direct popular participation in politics. "The Communist Party is most afraid that Mr Democracy may one day come to the mainland," he said.

Even staunch foes of Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang or Nationalist Party praised the poll. "I'm very happy — it does not really matter who won," said Helen Liu, widow of a Chinese-American author murdered in 1984 after criticising Chiang Kai-shek, Taiwan's late dictator. The murder was a mob hit commissioned by members of Taiwan's since-reformed security apparatus. "What matters is the change that made this election possible."

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THE JOYS (AND OTHERWISE) OF WORKING IN A MODERN OFFICE...
THE OLIVER & CLAIRE STRIP

Government to encourage handing over babies

Adoption law aims at single mothers

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

THE Government has drawn up proposals to try to encourage single mothers to be considered handing their babies over for adoption.

The Department of Health is to publish a draft bill updating the adoption law, and intended to make adoption a valid and acceptable alternative to abortion or the struggle of bringing up an unwanted child.

At the same time, it wants to stamp out the "political correctness" and red tape which complicate many applications for adoption, making it clear to local authorities that upper age limits for prospective adoptive parents are unacceptable.

Yesterday John Bowis, the health minister, told the Guardian that the changes were designed to make the law — which came into force when more babies were available for adoption — more relevant to society today, while simplifying adoption procedures.

The draft bill — which would be included in a future legislative programme — is due to be published over the next few days, along with a consultation paper and a guidance circular being sent

out to local authorities' social services departments.

"We are trying to promote adoption as an acceptable and valid alternative to abortion and the burden of bringing up an unwanted child," Mr Bowis said. "But we are most certainly not putting pressure on any mother to use this route if she doesn't want to."

He made clear that the new rules will apply equally to single mothers and those in established relationships, although the Government is known to be concerned about the increasing number of pregnancies and births among under-age girls.

The new rules are reported to give courts the power to override natural parents who refuse to consent to adoption orders, if they are deemed to be in the child's interest.

Official statistics show that since 1977 — the year after the Adoption Act — the number of children adopted has roughly halved from 13,000 to fewer than 7,000 now, while the number of abortions has risen to 160,000 a year — reckoned to be around one in five of all pregnancies. The reduction in the number of children available for adoption is due to abortion and the growing tendency for people to have smaller families.

Mr Bowis also said the new rules were designed to crack down on some of the "politically correct" adoption policies of some local authorities, which discriminate on the grounds of age, education or race.

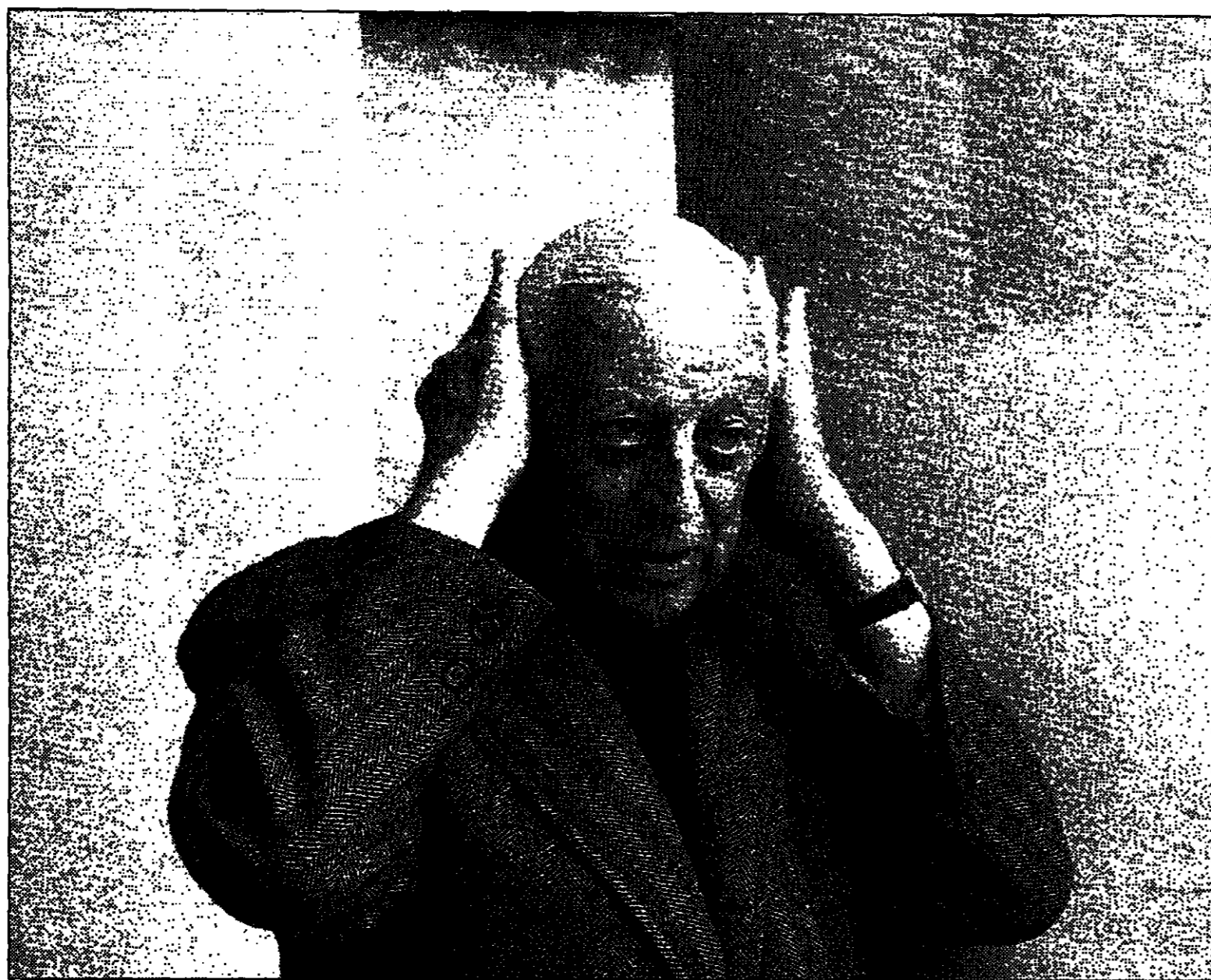
"It is ridiculous to have a cut-off point of, say, 35 for mothers, when women can naturally bear children long after that," he said. "In addition, older parents can often provide a more stable environment for children, particularly if they already have experience of bringing them up."

Mr Bowis said the new rules also take account of the fact that prospective adoptive parents are increasingly looking abroad for children. They will ease the legal and immigration procedures for countries that are signed up to the nationally approved system in place under the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption.

In addition, bureaucratic complications involved, for example, where a mother remarries and has to "adopt" her own child with her new partner, will be ended. The new rules would allow a stepfather to take legal responsibility for the child, giving him the same legal status as an adoptive father.

The Government expects the consultation exercise to take two to three months.

Letters, page 5



Veteran broadcaster Alistair Cooke, whose Letter From America this week celebrates its 50th anniversary on the air

PHOTOGRAPH: BILL ROBINSON

Cooke's grand tour takes a 50th birthday flashback and gets ready to move on

Vivek Chaudhary

IT WAS originally scheduled for a 13-week run, the brainchild of an aspiring BBC journalist looking to broadcast a series of talks on life in America after the end of the second world war.

Yesterday, veteran journalist Alistair Cooke turned the clock back half a century, marking the 50th anniversary of his Letter from America by

re-reading the very first of his legendary 15-minute BBC talks.

Mr Cooke, now aged 87, began yesterday's letter by explaining to listeners the context within which his first talk was written in 1946.

Mr Cooke had just returned to the US from a sobering month-long visit to London, where he encountered chronic food shortages and long queues.

He told listeners yesterday:

"I think I ought to fill in the dark, bleak background of Britain in early 1946, otherwise you will wonder at the obsession in this talk of food and clothing and the desperate ways of procuring them."

"In Britain, the winter of 1945/46 was the hardest to bear, not only because of ferocious weather but because during the war the American government under President Roosevelt had voted to send to Britain millions of tons of

food and billions of dollars in loans to finance the making of all the weapons of war. But the day after the Japanese surrender in August 1945, President Truman suspended all this so-called lend-lease aid.

"My trip to London was frankly a shocker. There was everywhere a dire shortage of heat and electricity, coal, food. Soap was a luxury."

The letter became the first of 2,458 broadcasts by Mr Cooke about his adopted homeland, which is regularly heard by more than a million listeners in Britain alone.

In his first letter, Mr Cooke spoke of leaving Britain aboard an ocean liner filled with thousands of war brides "weeping like mad" and waving handkerchiefs "in an unbroken line, like washing day in Manchester or Leeds." He spoke of shortages of nylons,

bread, meat and butter in America, and the long queues for basic items.

Born in 1908, Mr Cooke was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge. He joined the BBC in 1934 as a film critic but as the winner of a Commonwealth Fellowship, he had travelled throughout America in the summer of 1933 and fell in love with its landscape and people. In 1941 he became a US citizen.

Mr Cooke's soothing, deadpan style and eye for detail have earned him a worldwide audience estimated at 34 million.

He still writes his scripts on a manual typewriter in his New York apartment, doing the corrections by hand.

At the end of yesterday's broadcast, Mr Cooke vouchsafed that a journalist had recently asked him if the BBC had asked him to retire and whether he planned to. He told listeners: "I said the answer was no and no. I've noticed if you retire you keel over."

Shortages, rations, queues... oh, what a weary peace

THE nation might have been relieved that the war was over, but 1946 was a crippling year for most Britons, writes Vivek Chaudhary.

By March of that year, Clement Attlee's Labour government had reintroduced rationing on basic food such as bread, rice and butter, after American loans ended. Meat rations were cut. Clothes could only be purchased with coupons and nylon stockings became a valuable commodity. A shortage of



An ex-soldier gets his 'demob suit' in 1946

grain meant that beer production was cut by 50 per cent and the only concession granted to a popula-

tion facing long queues and shortages was a slight increase in corn beef rations. Police and Ministry of

Food mounted a campaign to arrest black-marketeers.

The health minister, Aneurin Bevan, told the country that tuberculosis and venereal disease remained a major problem but vowed that a national health service would be set up, providing health care for all. The government also promised free school milk and dinners.

There was a desperate housing shortage. The government was to look into the building of new towns, and promised cash to cities like Coventry and Hull, which had been severely damaged.

1946 also saw the first civil flights from Heathrow and the reintroduction of league football following the end of the war.

Finland's boozing elite gulp towards victory in the drink

Jon Henley on board the Silja Scandinavia

ONLOOKERS toppled around them, but Matti Puustinen and Risto Saikkonen kept their heads up — and the contents of their stomachs more or less down — to

wipe the floor with the opposition in Finland's seaborne drinking championship.

Cherished on by a 200-strong crowd on the disco deck of the Silja Scandinavia ferry churning through the Baltic at the weekend, Mr Puustinen downed eight bottles of beer in 1 minute and 10.76 seconds

— a feat broadcast live on Finnish radio.

Mr Saikkonen's two-gulp technique sent down 0.3 litres in 1.61 seconds, winning him the Small Tankard class.

"It was okay — a fair result," said Mr Saikkonen, a tourism student aged 34. He also won the Single Bottle event, prepared for the final round by meditating on my technique. And I had a practice in the sauna."

The contestants had been selected from about 5,000 entrants in qualifiers held around Finland — renowned for its prodigious drinking.

"It's a combination of art and sport," said Mr Puustinen, a mechanic aged 21. "It takes a lot of experience and a lot of practice — with water, not beer."

Despite having consumed 14 pints, Mr Puustinen — who threw up only once during the entire event — bounced back to win a late-night final round, downing the one-pint Large Tankard in 2.46 seconds.

"Don't try this at home," Harri Fajari, the championship organiser, warned spectators. "It's the gas — it just has to come back up again."

But if the champions stayed relatively sober, many of the 1,500 passengers did not.

"The Finns have a very different alcohol culture to other European countries," said a resigned Thomas Junell, the cruise host. "Basically, it's nothing to do with socialising — it's about getting drunk."

Finland's strict alcohol laws and high taxes have fostered a Nordic tradition of "booze cruises" where passengers buy cheap duty-free and drink their fill.

By Saturday afternoon some were already out for the count. But early on Sunday, a victorious Mr Saikkonen thought it might be time for a few beers. "Just six or seven," he said. "Now I might get drunk."

He plotted a careful course through swaying passengers trying to control beer-laden shopping-trolleys, avoiding prone bodies in gangways.

An ambulance stood ready on the quayside as the ferry docked at Sam.

Filing off numbly, the passengers headed unknowingly towards another challenge: up the road, police were waiting with breathalysers at a roadblock.

Clydesdale Bank PLC announces that its mortgage rates are being reduced from 1 May 1996 for new and existing customers.

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With effect from 1 May 1996 Clydesdale Bank Tailored Personal Loan — Variable Secured Rate will be reduced to 7.25% per annum and the preferential rate of interest for Tailored Personal Loan — Variable Secured will be reduced to 6.75%.

Clydesdale Bank

Plugged in and turned off, the audio-zombies move through the gallery tracing preordained steps, obeying the voices in their heads.

G2 cover story

Hector

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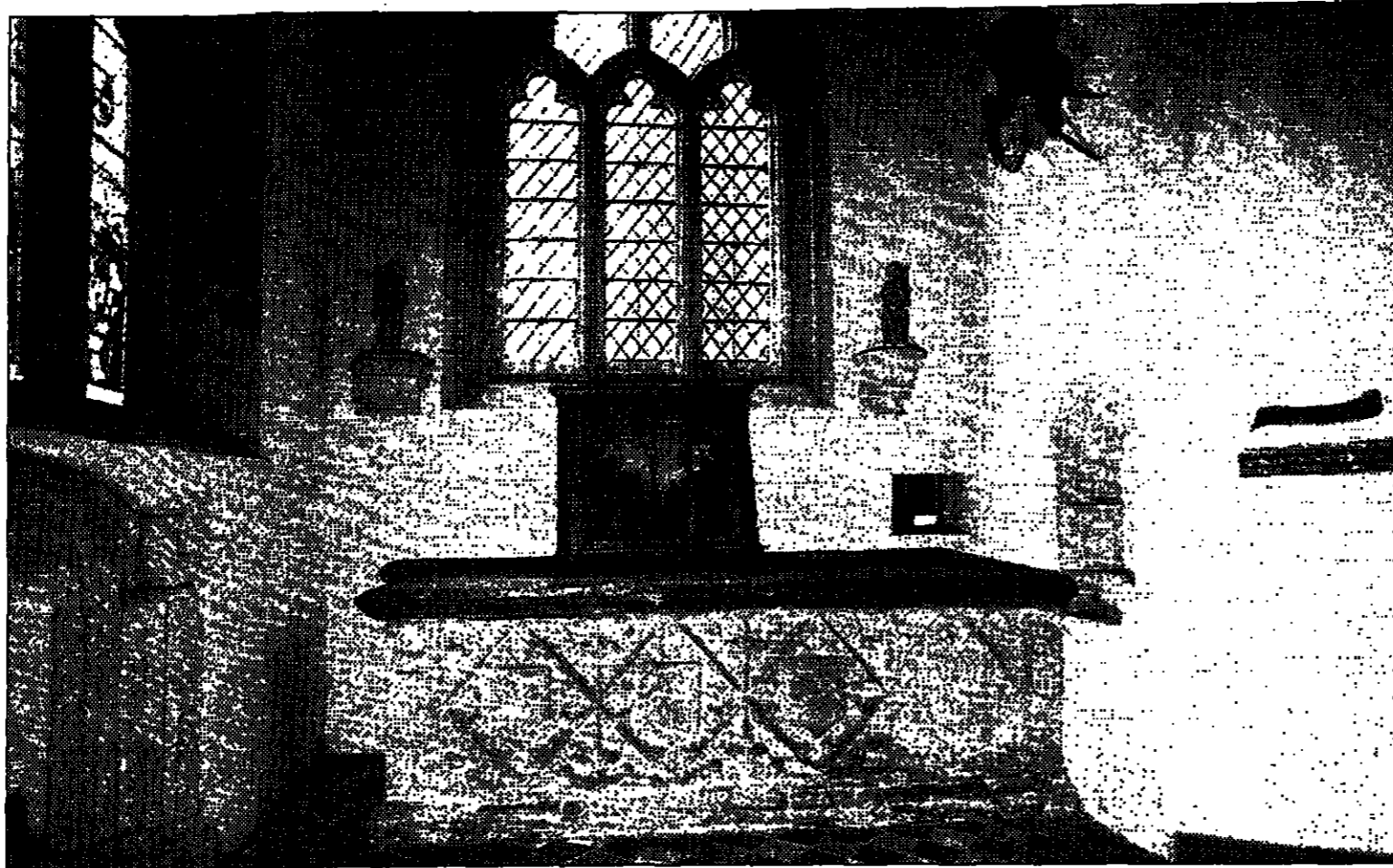
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4 BRITAIN



Maev Kennedy on the dilemma facing a church with a tomb relic too valuable for it to ever display



The Barendyne Helm (above left), which dates from around 1500 and once hung over its owner's tomb in the village church

Legal joust looms over plan to sell medieval helm

An exceptionally rare medieval jousting helm is being sold by an Oxfordshire church, despite doubts about the legality of such sales.

Armouries a £10,000 grant, subject to being satisfied about the sale's legality. However, one expert warned that its sale would set a dangerous precedent for the disposal of other church treasures.

The property of the churches, but of the families which placed them there. Other ecclesiastical courts have held that such armour can only be sold if the heir-at-law is traced.

never be shown there set a dangerous precedent for other church valuables, such as silver, which have been on display in treasuries. It could now be argued they should be sold as the connection with their churches was permanently broken.

The Barendyne Helm is the best of only five such surviving pieces. The others are in St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, the Bargello Museum in Florence, Sherborne Castle in Dorset and the Wallace Collection in Hertford House, central London.

Almost nothing is known of Sir William Barendyne except that his tomb records he was three times high sheriff of Oxfordshire. But Mr Eaves said: "The helm shows clear signs of having been used, and has the marks where it was struck by a lance, so you might wonder how good he was."

Rescue bid after girl 'forced into marriage'

Friend Clouston

GLASGOW councilor files to Pakistan tomorrow in an attempt to rescue a Strathclyde girl aged 14 from her forced marriage to a shopkeeper aged 40.

refused to sign her marriage document.

Earlier Rifat, due to start an honours degree in biosciences at Glasgow Caledonian university, was ordered to abandon her current fiancé and marry an illiterate cousin aged 27. Despite initial reluctance, she is now apparently reconciled to the union.

Mohammad Sarwar has already arranged for six armed guards to protect the house where Nazia Haq, her mother and younger sister are taking refuge after a summer holiday turned into a nightmare of imprisonment, beatings, and involuntary nuptials.

The mother, Nazia, and Somera are now in hiding following their return to the UK after the intervention of Pakistani police, alerted by Mrs Haq's outraged relatives.

Mr Sarwar said yesterday: "My first priority is to ensure the women's safety." Police confirmed that they had been investigating since July the apparent abduction of four female members of the Haq family.

Mr Sarwar, a cash-and-carry millionaire, hopes to become Labour's candidate for the Govan constituency. The councillor for the Pollok-shields district described the behaviour of Mr Haq, whom he knows, as appalling. "It's difficult to believe that a father could treat his family like this."

Fatma Haq, aged 48, and her three daughters, Nazia, Rifat, aged 20, and Somera, aged nine, were allegedly seized by kidnappers wielding hockey-sticks shortly after travelling from the UK to the north Pakistani city of Lahore. Their capture was apparently co-ordinated by Abdul Haq, aged 59, who had followed his wife and daughters.

Mr Haq, a businessman who operated in Glasgow for 20 years before returning east last summer, could face a charge of procuring his daughter for under-age sex.

Two weeks later, Nazia, a second-year pupil at Glasgow's Hillhead High school, and then aged 13, was married to her father's nephew, Mohammad Iqbal. It is alleged that in the days preceding the ceremony the women were drugged and beaten and Nazia was warned that her mother would be shot if she

As Britain has no extradition treaty with Pakistan, Mr Haq's fate will depend on the attitude of that country's government. Under Islamic law as it operates in Pakistan, women can only be married over the age of 16 and never against their will.

The Foreign Office said it had asked the High Commission in Islamabad to make inquiries.



Mohammad Sarwar... 'priority is the women's safety'

'No clear cause' for fall in breast cancer deaths

Chris Mitchell Medical Correspondent

DEATH rates from breast cancer are falling in England and Wales and in other Western countries, although researchers are unclear why, a report published today says.

cancer scientists say it is now being echoed in many neighbouring countries — although not all. Breast cancer deaths in England and Wales peaked in 1986 and 1987 at around 57 per 100,000 women. They have been falling since and are now around 50 per 100,000 women.

There has been a levelling off or a fall in deaths. The fall is most marked among women under 50.

The four countries not showing a fall are Belgium, Hungary, Poland and Spain, but this may be because they had comparatively low rates to begin with.

Changes in childbearing patterns may also be playing a role. It is known that having children while young is protective, and this could be working through into the likely run-up to a Labour government.

Scientists say it is not known if the mammography programmes having babies later in life will affect breast cancer rates in the future.

Advertisement for Edna Cyberpunk. Features a large image of a woman's face wearing a futuristic helmet. Text includes: 'Edna Cyberpunk', 'Uses Europe Online for bargain hunting, queue jumping and blowing away alien mutants', 'Easy access to E-mail and discussion groups, entertainment and education, travel and shopping services all for the lowest monthly fee' on the internet. Contact info: 0800 10 66 10. Website: http://www.europeonline.com

NUS leaders face grants battle

Gary Younge reports on a second attempt by Blairites to ditch free education policy

STUDENTS gather in Blackpool today for an explosive NUS conference as the Blairite leadership attempts to overturn the union's support for the principle of free education.

last May, will be debated again tomorrow. Both sides admit the vote will be close, so the support of the growing number of non-aligned delegates will be decisive.

Opponents say the move is an attempt by the leadership to 'soften up' student opinion in the likely run-up to a Labour government. "They have decided they do not want a policy that will embarrass a Labour government and are laying down dead before we've even got one," said Rosie Woods, a NUS executive member and supporter of Left Unity, the student wing of the Trotskyist group, Socialist Organiser.

The conference is taking place against a backdrop of a massive increase in student poverty and a trend towards making students bear the brunt of government cuts. Grants have been cut by 20 per cent in the past two years. An NUS Values For Money survey in February last year found one in three students missed meals because of hardship, one in four considered dropping out, one in three worked part-time during term and one in two thought their financial situation was having an adverse effect upon their academic work.

Rape campaigners' centre faces eviction in rent row

Maggie O'Kane LONDON women's centre, whose campaigning has led to a number of changes in the law on rape — including getting rape in marriage recognised as a crime — is due to be evicted from its premises today.

The Housing Association, a charity providing subsidised housing, said it wants the centre to pay a commercial rent of £6,000 a year. "We do not think it is our job to pay for voluntary organisations," said spokesman Mick Sweeney.

Senior Citizens with money in the bank should read this before it's too late

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pitfalls to avoid. It shows how you can protect your home from being sold to pay for care costs. It also shows how you can use your legal rights to protect your life savings for yourself, your spouse or your heirs. But it is absolutely essential you make any arrangements in good time. That's why you must consider your options TODAY — now, before it's too late.

Advertisement for a £30,000 Orange Prize. Text: 'The £30,000 Orange Prize casts its net wider than the Booker. It is open to more writers than any other prize in the world,' insists Kate Mosse, who is chairing the first panel of judges. As long as they happen to be women. G2 page 10

Advertisement for a book 'How to Protect Your Assets Against Nursing Home Costs'. Text: 'To order your copy of "How to Protect Your Assets Against Nursing Home Costs" send your name, address and book title with payment (cheque or Visa/Access with expiry date) of £12.95 which includes postage and handling to Carnell plc, Dept NHC21, Alresford, nr. Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, or telephone their 24 hour order line on 01206 825600 (quoting reference NHC21). Allow up to 14 days for delivery. You may return the book any time within three months for a full refund if not satisfied.'

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. Text includes: 'Cut in...', 'Decision m...', 'Decision sla...', 'All I know don't trust scientists'.

rescue big
ter girl
raced into
marriage

grants batt

Ministry accused of helping to destroy the farming industry by trying to protect it at the expense of the consumer

Cut in aid 'helped the spread of BSE'

Decision may be near on slaughter

John Mullin

THE eradication of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) had been made much more difficult by the Government's decision two years ago to cut compensation to farmers with infected cattle, a medical expert said last night.

Douglas Latto, chairman of the board of governors of the British Safety Council, said some farmers, faced with losing money, had instead decided to sell cattle at the first sign of the disease on the open market or in the abattoir. "Cattle which should have been incinerated have been getting into the food chain."

The Ministry of Agriculture cut compensation in January 1994. Farmers who had owned cows with BSE for incineration now get only the value of an older cow, a loss of about £200 on the approximate £300 for a healthy animal.

The ministry had acknowledged the shortcomings of such a policy four years earlier. It had raised the 50 per cent compensation level, on offer from August 1988, to the full market amount in February 1990.

Dr Latto said: "There is no doubt that the change in policy has contributed to a much higher incidence of BSE than would otherwise be the case. The ministry's policy throughout has been counter-productive. It has tried to protect the industry instead of the consumer, and by doing so, is helping to destroy it."

Amid growing panic within Britain's beef farming community, Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, signed the 25,000 schools are thought to have taken beef off the menu. Pat Fellows, national chairman of the Local Authority Caterers Association, said: "Having been involved in this issue for some months, I am getting more and more concerned. On a personal level, I think we have to be safer rather than sorry, and we should not give schoolchildren beef products."

Michael Young, of the Food Safety Advisory Committee, said it was important that the Government come up with proposals to deal with the problem quickly, but implementation should not be down to the Ministry of Agriculture. It had conflicting roles in representing both the industry and the consumer.

They seemed reconciled to a policy of selective slaughter as long as it came with full compensation. That would cost the government about £1 billion.

McDonald's move, if permanent, would cost the beef industry at least £25 million a year, but the National Farmers' Union conceded that the effect of publicity surrounding the move was incalculable. It is the world's second most recognised brand name, behind Coca-Cola. One official called it "the most devastating development since the Government said that 10 young people with CJD may have contracted it from beef."

Another farmer said: "There is no livelihood now. There is no export trade and no home trade. The abattoirs are just shutting up shop."

Fay Preston, chief executive of McDonald's UK, said he was confident British beef was safe, but it was the customers' view which counted. Even if the Government announced new measures, the ban would remain if customers remained suspicious.

Sales of beef are down by a third. Supermarkets were slashing the prices of beef at lunch-time on Saturday but were still unable to encourage purchases. Several are considering a switch to foreign-produced beef. Bill Shannon, general manager of Co-op brands, said: "What we need is some clarity on how to manage this problem."

There are fears about employment. There are 40,000 farm holdings with dairy cows and 72,100 with beef cows, some of them overlapping. The abattoir sector employs 15,400 people.

More than half the country's 25,000 schools are thought to have taken beef off the menu. Pat Fellows, national chairman of the Local Authority Caterers Association, said: "Having been involved in this issue for some months, I am getting more and more concerned. On a personal level, I think we have to be safer rather than sorry, and we should not give schoolchildren beef products."

Michael Young, of the Food Safety Advisory Committee, said it was important that the Government come up with proposals to deal with the problem quickly, but implementation should not be down to the Ministry of Agriculture. It had conflicting roles in representing both the industry and the consumer.



Beef is off the menu at this McDonald's in Shaftesbury Avenue in London's West End until supplies of European beef arrive. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Soundbites on beef

"We have to get rid of the infected herds, and replace them in a sensible way on new ground, and that is the problem because the infection can persist on grass for years" Professor Richard Lacey of Leeds University

"[That is] the most extraordinary statement I have ever heard. Professor Lacey must be in a minority of one" Leading vet Dr Rosalind Ridley

"People are now making up their own minds and ignoring the Government — who are so arrogant and out of touch that they no longer seem to notice that the public doesn't trust them" Shadow health secretary Harriet Harman

Chicken McSandwich fills the Big Mac gap

Martin Walkerwright

Fast food outlets winning fight against burger backlash

ONE thing was missing from the cheerful debris of the Blackburn family's lunch table yesterday, at McDonald's in Giseley on the outskirts of Leeds.

Among the dabs of ketchup, split chips, and five-year-old Sophie's Happy Meal mouse toy, there was not a speck of burger, Big Mac, or any other form of beef.

"We wouldn't have ordered burgers even if they had been on the menu," said Mrs Sukie Blackburn, who gave up the meat in December when professor Bernard Tomlinson announced his personal boycott. "We'd already stopped giving it to the children," added her husband, Philip, who is in textile sales. "I've not been so worried for myself, but the uncertainty has persuaded me now."

Sunday lunch custom was down at the usually packed restaurant and "drive-thru", but there were still queues at all five counters and few seats to be had round the yellow and red tables and booths.

THE Big Mac and Quarterpounder might be off the menu, but there is still plenty to sink your teeth into for a fast food fix, writes Vivek Chaudhary.

McDonald's vegetarian burgers are very popular at £1.59 each or £2.58 including french fries and a soft drink.

If you must have meat, there are Chicken McNuggets at £1.59 for six pieces.

Another option is fillet of fish at £1.39, or £2.58 including fries and soft drink.

"We were doing pizzas but unfortunately that promotion has stopped," said a McDonald's spokesman at one of their central London branches.

Other burger outlets also have plenty of alternatives. "We've got an assortment of fish dishes, chicken burgers and jacket potatoes. There's still a great variety of dishes on offer, despite the fact that not many people are choosing to eat beef these days," said a spokesman for Fatty Arbuckles.

"We've got vegetable lasagne, burgers and vegetable salads."

The huge number of takeaway kebab restaurants across the country also provide beef dissenters with useful alternatives.

Then of course, there are the traditional fish and chip shops, and the growing popularity of Indian food means that a quick non-beef snack can be just as enticing as a succulent burger.

Back at McDonald's, the Filet-o-Fish was duly going well, while the chain's new Vegetable Deluxe, introduced in response to customer demand, is expected to arrive in Leeds shortly after successful trials in the North-west. Staff are meanwhile preparing to flag up the Dutch beef burgers due to come to the rescue on Thursday.

Huge posters of Ronald McDonald in a windmill and clogs? "No," said Robert Parker of McDonald's British headquarters. "But we certainly be making sure that customers know where we get our beef."

Where isn't it? she said. "You feel as though the answer is to eat nothing, though that's hardly practical." Pragmatic rather than practical, Kevin O'Hara at a nearby table commented: "Eat a burger? It would simply depend on how hungry I felt. If anything has gone wrong, it's a bit late for me to be worried."

A mile up the road at Harry Ramsden's fish-and-chip restaurant the traditional queue was as long as ever, though customers were not under any illusions about escaping

wanting beef this morning, their reaction has been mostly just surprise.

Matthew Jacques, aged 24, and two friends visiting Leeds from Birmingham bore this out, eating their unaccustomed McSandwiches under a shelf of McFace Cards on 100 per cent pure beef — "only prime cuts of lean forequarter and flank are used."

Mr Jacques would have gone for burgers had they been available. "I think it's a bit of media thing," said his friend, Richard Bateson, aged 23. But Cheryl Evans, downing a coffee at the next table, disagreed. "There just aren't enough definite facts being given," she said.

VIEW FROM THE FARM: a traditional farmer (below left) and an organic farmer (below right) on the controversy threatening thousands of jobs

'All I know is I don't trust scientists'

IN ALL the uncertainty about BSE and CJD, the only certain thing I know is that I do not trust scientists.

Too often in recent years we have been subjected to some headline-grabbing scientific statement that has turned out to be a complete load of organic manure.

Do you remember the Great Egg That Edwin Laid (on the finest scientific evidence, of course)? The knee jerks that

followed drove a lot of egg producers out of business, but the incidence of salmonella has continued to rise sharply.

Beware the scientist waving a clean bill of health. I know from working as a sheep-dipping contractor that organic phosphorous sheep dips make you ill. For years scientists disputed that, but medical opinion now is that OPs may be a significant contributory factor to Parkinson's disease.

My own, totally unscientific, observation over the years does suggest that when it comes to man versus nature, nature will get you in the end. I don't know whether BSE was caused by feeding herbivores the crushed, dried and powdered corpses of other diseased animals, but it is hardly a natural diet.

Farmers were obliged by law to protect cattle against warble fly by pouring some very nasty organo-phosphorous liquid along their spines. We do not know — and Maff [Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food] is not saying — what its long-term effects might be.

For years we have fought disease with antibiotics. Now nature is producing resistant strains of bugs which, a doctor friend tells me, are frightening the medical profession. That may be the next public panic.

All forms of intensive livestock rearing move away from nature, and without these systems we cannot feed ever-growing populations.

Nature does not like over-population. It has three tried and trusted remedies for it — war, famine and pestilence. We may well be in for a spot of pestilence.

My doctor friend has a "worst case scenario" of 10 million CJD cases by 2005. No one knows what causes it, but there has to be a scapegoat — and it looks as though it is going to be beef.

I shall do my best for beef by continuing to eat it. But I am prepared to bet that some scientist will pop up with the news that CJD has no connection to beef whatsoever — but will we believe him?

R. W. F. Poole is a farmer in Alnwick, Northumberland

'We have been struggling to get message across'

Geoffrey Gibbs

TIM and Jo Budden are seething at the way all beef farmers are being tarred with the BSE brush.

For the past 11 years they have farmed 300 acres at Burrington, north Devon, and pride themselves on the quality of the beef and lamb they produce.

Despite the disincentives inherent in government

subsidy schemes they have turned Higher Hacknell Farm into a fully organic business, and run a pedigree herd of about 100 cattle, a flock of 850 sheep and 40 acres of organically-produced corn.

"We are a self-contained herd and have very strict controls on feedstuffs which have to be approved by the Soil Association," Tim Budden said yesterday. "Our calves get their pro-

tein from their mothers' milk, we grow our own oats and the cattle are fattened on clover grassland. We have proved you can produce excellent meat without using hormones and fertilisers."

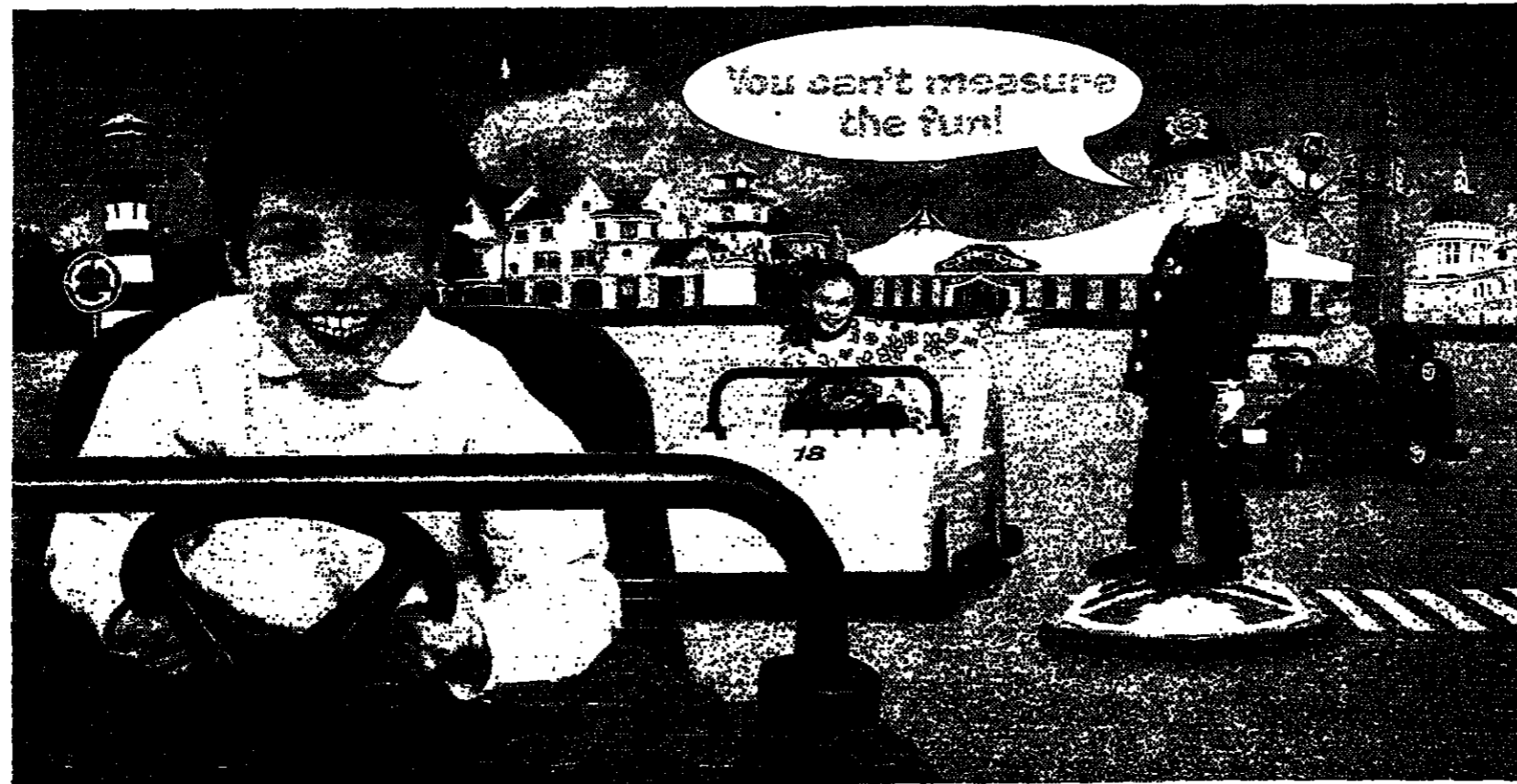
The Buddens' self contained herd has never had so much as a suggestion of BSE, but they are nervous about the all-embracing impact of the CJD scare, and are deeply critical of what they see as "stupidness bungling" by the Government in its handling of the issue.

"The problem has largely arisen from within the dairy industry, where calves removed from their mothers had to be fed with animal proteins. The majority of traditional calf producers are BSE free." Tim Budden fears that

the impact of the latest BSE scare will be catastrophic for large parts of the farming industry, but sees a ray of hope for organic producers because of the nature of the product. Much of the farm's output is sold direct to the consumer and through farm shops.

Ian Shears, who runs Highfield Harvest Organic Farm Shop at Topsham, Devon, has had one of his busiest weeks in the retail trade. "I am not rejoicing about it but we have been bashing away to get the organic message across for a long time."

He said the scare was making people think more carefully on a general level about what they were eating. He had completely sold out of organic milk during the week and was selling a lot of gelatine-free jelly.



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LEGOLAND

6 WORLD NEWS

Little unity on union in Germany

In Turin this week, Europe's leaders open the long and potentially acrimonious inter-governmental conference to review the Maastricht treaty and map out the shape and powers of the European Union.



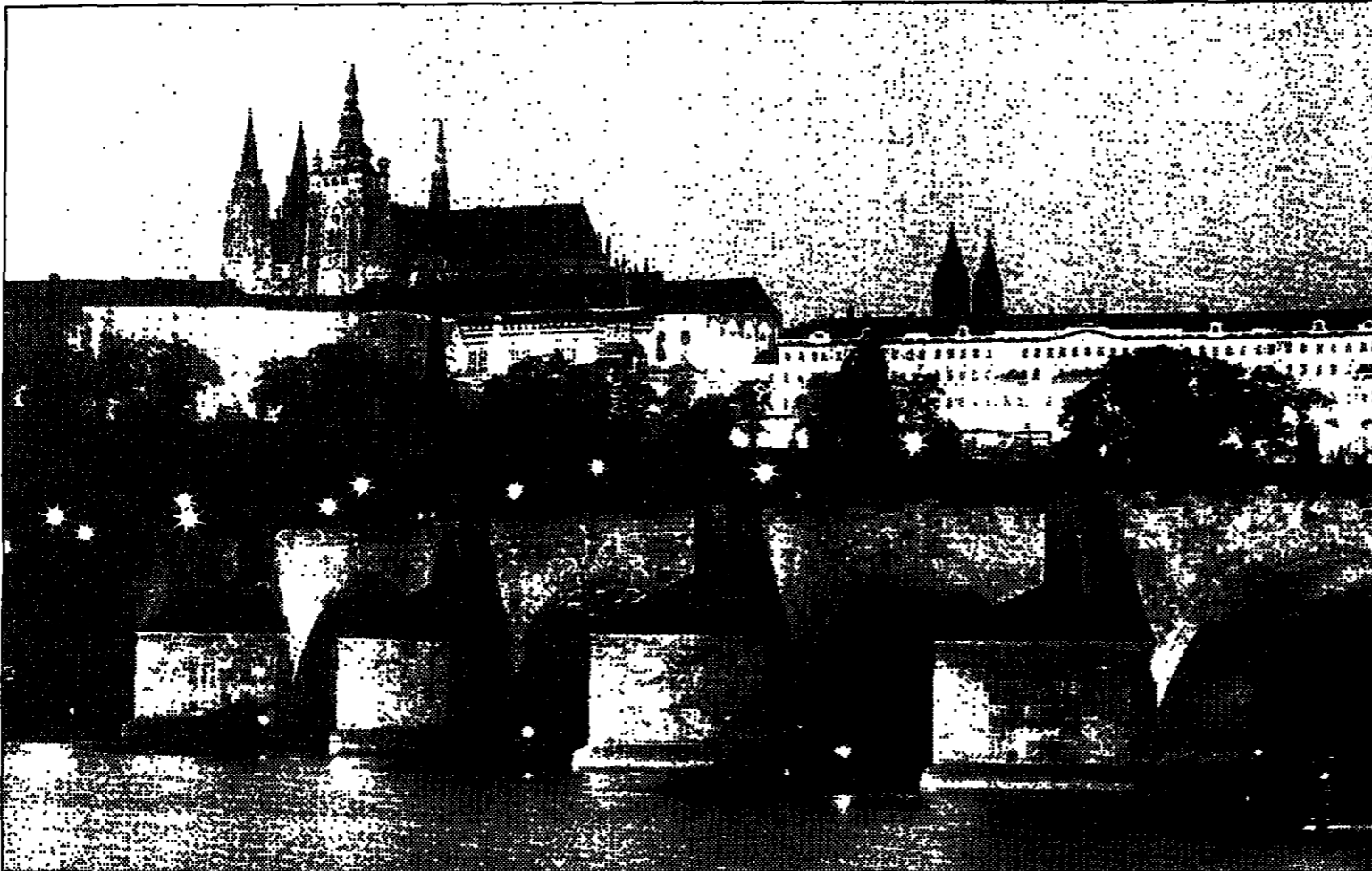
WERNER Hoyer, ardent Euro-integrationist and effectively Germany's cabinet minister for the European Union, is fond of citing the great German public in support of the Euro-federalist policies he tirelessly espouses.

and Munich's Sueddeutsche Zeitung have been telling a different, probably more accurate, tale. Just over half of those Germans surveyed said the Bonn parliament should be responsible for foreign and security policy, as opposed to 38 per cent who would vest this authority in the EU.

the British White Paper on the EU proved how the Government was incapable of action. Mr Lammers repeated the clichéd refrain that the "Franco-German motor of European Union" was running on all cylinders.

Queen's historic visit stirs war memories

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive in Warsaw today, kicking off a visit to post-communist central Europe. It will be the first time a reigning British monarch has set foot in either Poland or the Czech lands.



Mixed reception... In Prague (above) wartime experiences of Britain and France still rankle. There will be a warmer reception in Poland for the Queen.



War, in March 1939, the Germans occupied and partitioned all of Czechoslovakia, establishing a puppet fascist regime in Slovakia and a Bohemian protectorate in the Czech lands.



The US first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, sought to boost the morale of families of US troops on peacekeeping duty in Bosnia yesterday as she opened an eight-day goodwill tour at the 1st Armoured Division base at Bammbold, Germany.

State elections give boost to Bonn coalition

Our Correspondent in Bonn THE German opposition's attempt to steal Chancellor Helmut Kohl's thunder and portray itself as the guardian of German jobs flopped humbly yesterday when the Social Democrats lost up to five percentage points in regional polls.

World news in brief

Bosnian rivals prepare to free prisoners

BOSNIA's former warring parties geared up to release more prisoners yesterday after the big powers threatened to withhold reconstruction aid if they reneged on obligations undertaken in the Dayton peace accord.

Minsk marches against merger

Up to 30,000 Belarusians staged an unprecedented post-Soviet rally yesterday against their president's plans to merge with Russia, marching through Minsk and besieging state television offices.

Benin comeback

Former Marxist military ruler Mathieu Kerekou consolidated his dramatic comeback in Benin yesterday, when his top court proclaimed him winner of its presidential election.

New offensive

The Sri Lankan military is expected to launch a huge new offensive in the northern Jaffna peninsula, a government newspaper said yesterday.



Jordanian infant Yitzhak Rabin - named for the slain Israeli leader - holds his birth certificate yesterday

GREENPEACE

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Nasa savours docking success as it plans for joint space station

AS astronauts slept after the docking of space shuttle Atlantis with the Russian space station Mir, NASA chiefs paused yesterday to savour the third successful rendezvous with Mir.

Escapes hunted

At least 16 people have been killed in Libya in four days of clashes between the army and about 400 escaped prisoners, travellers arriving in an Egyptian border town said yesterday.

Obasanjo moved

One of Nigeria's best-known political prisoners, former president Oluasegun Obasanjo, has been moved to another jail, apparently to protect him from a meningitis epidemic sweeping the country.

Murder cover-up

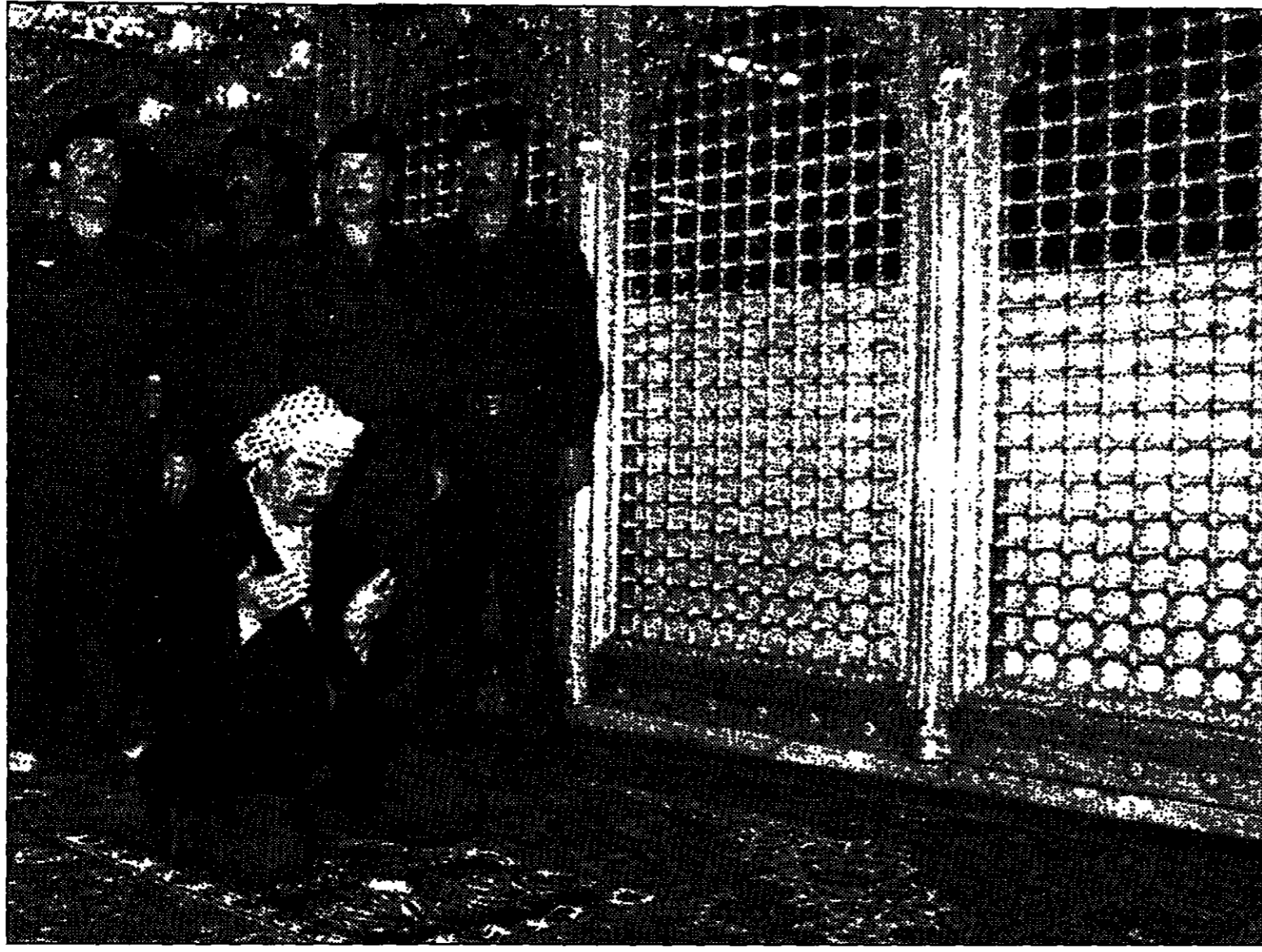
Two Guatemalan presidents, two defence ministers and high-ranking military officers paid by the CIA helped cover up the facts of the killing of Michael DeVine, an American inmate in Guatemala in 1990.

Church 'colluded with Paris to expel refugee protesters'

Alex Duval Smith in Paris THE French Catholic Church colluded with police over the expulsion of more than 60 immigrants who had occupied a Paris church, human rights activists claimed yesterday.

Most people see Tony Parsons as an angry polemicist, a bad-boy street ranter, and yet how far that is from the truth. His interviews are, more than anything else, extended expressions of gratitude that he has been allowed into the presence. Profile G2 page 4

many



President Saddam Hussein prays in a shrine in Samarra, north-west of Baghdad, during a provincial tour in the run-up to yesterday's election to Iraq's national assembly. Millions of Iraqis voted in the first parliamentary poll since the 1991 Gulf war, with ostensibly independent candidates far outnumbering those of the ruling Ba'ath Party. The 350-seat parliament has no real power and invariably backs President Saddam's decisions

Jubilant Taiwan hints at detente

Andrew Higgins in Taipei

AS THE euphoria subsided yesterday after Taiwan's weekend election, the first of its kind in any Chinese society, Taiwan confronted the issue that had dominated the campaign but which President Lee Teng-hui ignored in his victory speech — China.

There was speculation in Taipei that just as Richard Nixon broke the ice with Beijing in 1972, Mr Lee might seek accommodation with China before an inauguration ceremony on May 20.

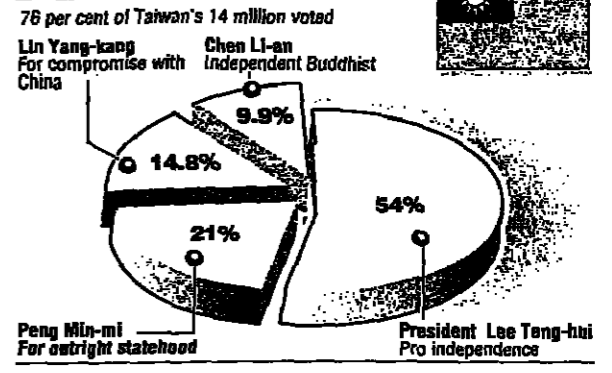
"This mandate allows him to make concessions. He has established himself as someone who stands up to China. Now he can step back," said Samuel Woo at National Cheng Chi University. The failure of Beijing to scare voters off Mr Lee, according to this optimistic scenario, could also allow Jiang Zemin, China's Communist Party leader, to stand up to more bellicose elements in the People's Liberation Army.

Mr Lee's triumph, with 54 per cent of the vote, marks a stinging defeat for China's policy of military intimidation, due to continue today with the final phase of a week-long display of ground, air and naval forces near Taiwanese-held islands off the coast of Fujian.

While China had derided the poll as a sham, 76 per cent of Taiwan's 14 million voters cast ballots. In its first complete vote, Beijing said voters had "dealt a heavy blow to the cause of Taiwanese independence. The only candidate overtly advocating a declaration of statehood, Peng Ming-min, came second with 21 per cent.

Beijing avoided insulting Mr Lee, whom it had condemned on election day as a dictator "leading Taiwan to the abyss of misery".

How the votes fell



Xinhua news agency, however, hinted Beijing might want to put the episode behind it. It reported, briefly, and without any mention of the word election, that Mr Lee had won.

"We place our hopes on the 'Taiwan people and ardently call on all the Chinese, including Taiwan compatriots, to join hands and make unremitting efforts to oppose separatism and 'Taiwan independence'." Xinhua quoted an unnamed official as saying.

While the Democratic Progressive Party's pro-independence candidate, Mr Peng, did badly, two candidates favouring reconciliation with China did even worse. Lin Yang-kang, the most fervent advocate of compromise, came third with 14.8 per cent of the vote, and an independent Buddhist, Chen Li-an, trailed fourth with 9.9 per cent.

"It sends a clear message to China that the people of Taiwan do not want unification," said Harris Chang, an MP and chairman of the foreign affairs committee. "They want either separation or independence. People are defiant. They don't want to be part of China."

O God, woe Montreal, as English flee

Quebec separatism is robbing a once vibrant and beautiful city of its social and economic lifeblood, writes Anne Swardson

SOON, Elaine and Sidney Perzow will lead up their three children and head to rainy Vancouver, leaving their babysitter of 12 years, the city where Elaine grew up, her widowed father, a bilingual culture and any hope of building a snowman in winter.

For the Perzows, quitting Montreal is expensive, but the only choice. "I'm leaving because of the economy and the bleak future here. Sometimes you have to cut your losses and start over," said Mrs Perzow, aged 40. "It's hard enough to live with the kind of stresses life always presents."

Quebec's unresolved issue of separation from Canada "just compounds it", she added.

The Perzows' move is symptomatic of the decline of Montreal. The city that once was Canada's financial and cultural centre is

in serious trouble. Its tax base is eroding, poverty is increasing, roads are deteriorating and citizens are leaving.

English-speakers, troubled by last year's hard-fought referendum on Quebec separation which federalists won by just one percentage point, are departing for other provinces and the United States, fearing the next battle will go the separatists' way.

Today Montrealers go to the polls in by-elections for two seats in the national parliament which are seen as a barometer for the strength of separatist sentiment. If the seats, formerly held by the pro-federalist Liberal Party, are taken by the separatist Bloc Quebecois it would be an ominous sign for Prime Minister Jean Chretien's drive for national unity.

In recent weeks, the panic has reached new heights

with the growing popularity of "partition", the notion that if Quebec can be separated from Canada by a democratic vote, as separatists contend, Montreal can be separated from Quebec in the same way. Various options have been

'No matter what happens, we of the linguistic minority will suffer'

floated, including the designation of Montreal as an independent city-state. Some English-speakers are enthusiastic; others see it as another step towards Montreal's ruin.

Montreal is a beautiful city with a rich cultural and social life — and a disappearing economy. Since

last October's referendum, many corporations have been laying plans to leave.

Housing construction has fallen off for eight consecutive years. Unemployment and poverty are higher than in any other big Canadian city. So much office space is vacant Montrealers are no longer amused by the old saw about the visitor who asked who "A. Louer" was because he seemed to own every building in town (*a louer* means to let).

"The city of Montreal is becoming a place for immigrants, the poor and the elderly," said Peter Trent, mayor of Westmount, a largely English-speaking enclave.

Barbara Rubia Wainrib, a psychologist, surveyed hundreds of people on how they felt after the referendum.

Nearly half said life felt out of balance. One wrote: "We are setting a plan in motion to leave within two years. I can't describe to you the fear, despair, anger, depression I experi-

enced prior to the referendum. My family has been here for 200 years. I feel that, no matter what happens, we of the [linguistic] minority, no matter what our race or ethnic origin, will suffer."

One old-stock French-speaker said her children and their spouses were so divided family members had not spoken to one another for two weeks. These responses come from residents of a city long considered a monument to bilingualism. About 65 per cent of Montrealers are native speakers of French, another 19 per cent grew up speaking English, and 26 per cent have a third language as their native tongue. Workers of all kinds shift languages at will. — Washington Post.

Beijing wishes Hong Kong a happy Christmas

Routier in Beijing

CHRISTMAS and Easter escaped the fate planned for Hong Kong's elected legislature yesterday, with China announcing it will allow the two Christian festivals to be observed after it takes back the British territory in 1997. The China-controlled preparatory committee, meeting in Beijing to set up institutions to rule Hong Kong after

the handover, said Good Friday could also stay, but the Queen's birthday goes.

The committee was formally beginning the process that will end Hong Kong's elected Legislative Council (Legco), when China resumes sovereignty on July 1 next year. It is to be replaced by a provisional legislature formed by means acceptable to China.

"Some people recently have raised a motion in Legco to use one-man, one-vote general

elections to seat Hong Kong's first chief executive," China's foreign minister, Qian Qichen, the preparatory committee's chairman, was reported as saying.

"They've even done this laughable thing of passing a motion condemning the preparatory committee. This is a brazen, irresponsible act towards Hong Kong's people," he said.

Turkey offers Greece talks on Aegean islands row

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

THE new Turkish prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, yesterday offered Greece unconditional talks on the future of the Aegean.

Mr Yilmaz told a news conference in Ankara that he wanted to open a new chapter in relations between Turkey and Greece.

The two traditional rivals came close to war in January over possession of an uninhabited Aegean island known as Kardak in Turkey and Imia in Greece. The US president, Bill Clinton, intervened to defuse the crisis but both countries then went on a diplomatic offensive to convince allies of their territorial rights.

Greece has tried to cancel a meeting between the European Union and Turkey this week and to veto an EU aid package worth over £300 million because of "Turkish aggression". It wants to take the Kardak/Imia issue to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Mr Yilmaz indicated that Turkey might agree to this. "I am proposing to Greece to engage in a comprehensive process of peace settlement that will not be excluded from the beginning any method of settlement including third-party arbitration," he said.

The Aegean tensions centre on Greece reserving the right under the United Nations Law of the Sea convention to extend its territorial waters from six to 12 nautical miles in a sea crowded with Greek islands close to the Turkish coast. Turkey has not ratified the convention and has warned that any attempt to implement it in the Aegean would be a *casus belli*. The divided island of Cyprus is the other main bone of contention between the two countries.

In interviews, Mr Yilmaz has spoken of withdrawing Turkey's Aegean forces in an effort to demilitarise the region.

Caring tycoon hailed as US stakeholder hero

Textile chief Aaron Feuerstein, pictured right, is being held up by President Clinton as a model for corporate good behaviour after refusing to lay off employees when fire wrecked his factory



IN America it's never too late to become a hero. At 70, Aaron Feuerstein, a textile manufacturer from Massachusetts, has become the living symbol of the stakeholder economy.

While government action can improve the corporate bottom line, President Clinton said in his regular radio broadcast at the weekend, "many of America's most successful businessmen have shown that you can do well by doing right by employees and their families".

The US backlash against lay-offs, downsizing and boardroom greed is growing by the day. Hence the president's election-year message on "corporate responsibility"; hence the political celebrity of Mr Feuerstein.

He is now a regular on TV talkshows and in the newspaper op-ed columns, his remarkable story is cited frequently as a model of corporate good behaviour.

In the rag trade he was always well-known. His Malden Mills textile plant in Lawrence, Massachusetts, gave the world Polartec, the innovative, fleecy fabric produced from recycled plastic bottles. It's light, dries quickly, and

invited the mill owner to Washington for his annual State of the Union address, where he listed Mr Feuerstein as a hero of the American people.

Mr Feuerstein says his conduct is only natural in a firm that has been in the family for four generations, and which bears the British name of stakeholder, the US labour secretary, Robert Reich, has proposed tax cuts for companies that look after their workers, either by providing health benefits or training. The administration is anxious to reward those corporations who buck the trend for cost-cutting through mass lay-offs — and to penalise those who don't.

Mr Reich has lavished praise on Malden Mills, visiting the plant last month. "They treat their workers as assets to be developed, not as costs to be cut," he says.

Mr Feuerstein's product is environmentally-friendly. He is a benefactor for his local community.

Best of all, back in the 1960s he refused to follow the rest of the textile industry and head south — where black workers were routinely paid lower wages.

"My grandfather came here from Hungary for political freedom, and I was not about to sell my soul for cheap labour," he says.

Production in a boom season was instantly shut down. The plant's 2,500 workers assumed their jobs were gone forever.

But the veteran boss gathered his staff into a high school gymnasium and said they had nothing to fear: at a cost of \$1.5 million (£1 million) a week, he would keep them on full pay and even give them a Christmas bonus of \$75. He promised to go on providing their health insurance for another 90 days and to have at least some of them back at work within the week. He was drowned out by a standing ovation.

"When people saw the devastation on television, they were positive that the 70-year-old owner would collect whatever insurance he could and say bye-bye," he told the crowd. "We don't operate that way."

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Taiwan Diary

Andrew Higgins

IT WAS a glum night at the OK Karaoke Club. Torrential rain had kept most of the regulars away.

As solitary Taiwanese soldier in jeans crowned tunelessly to a schmaltzy Taiwanese love song while three off-duty junior officers in track suits munched strands of dried squid...

A reluctant warrior at the tail end of mandatory military service, the best-dressed officer in the karaoke bar was counting the hours before he could get back to his life as a mechanical engineer...

Waiting for the apocalypse, though, is less fun than reading about it. Aside from the dubious pleasures of karaoke...

On Matsui, mainland China is not far from a remote menace. It looms as an immediate reality, its shore clearly visible, on rare days when fog lifts across a narrow sliver of pounding sea.

Such torment might explain why the People's Liberation Army (PLA) last attacked Matsui in 1958. It did so from solid ground.

BRITISH POUNDITE ANYONE?



Art à la carte or a look at the full menu?

Commentary Mark Lawson

THE BIG question of the week in the arts has been: does size matter? Back in the eighties, there was a brief, appropriately brief, excitement over the concept of three-minute culture.

We weren't. The combination of an economic recession which encouraged price to be judged against size — and industrial submission to artists' insistence that their vision should not be subject to editing — in fact led to a torrent of biceps-threatening novels and bladder-challenging plays and films.

And yet the question of three-minute culture has suddenly resurfaced in a different guise: quotation culture. Claudio Abbado, director of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra is suing his record company, Deutsche Grammophon, for extracting passages from his Mahler recordings for use in the currently fashionable anthologies of sad or happy or dramatic bits of classical music.

Simultaneously, a debate has been taking place in the Sunday New York Times about the phenomenon of artistic quotation in popular culture. The new CD-ROM edition of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations includes for the first time 500 "non-verbal quotations", the most popular existing tunes and images recycled by artists, film directors and advertisers.

In its backyard, Iran has bought Russian submarines and Chinese missiles to upgrade its offensive capability around the strategic straits of Hormuz, though it is no match for the US Fifth Fleet, the vanguard of America's policy of "dual containment".

tracks from a long-playing album but an integral part of a larger work. The musical canon becomes a litter of "snice bits", which usually means lush and soupy. He also regrets the increasing identification of pieces of music with movies in which they were used, so that, for example, Mahler is known to a generation of listeners solely as Visconti's soundtrack composer on Death in Venice.

Abbado's arguments do have some force. The current Number 1 in his market — Decca's Classic Moods — glushingly promises "over two hours of classical music to free the mind and touch the soul", thus reducing some of the highest achievements of art to a sort of motate Prozac.

That clearly is quotation out of context and is a practice which does have an effect on the reception of classical music. "O Sole Mio" has been ruined for a generation by its facetious use in an ice-cream commercial. Listening to my own favourite piece of music — Bach's St Matthew Passion — I am irritatingly distracted during the bank commercial bit and the supernatural

thriller movie bit. Yet there are good cases to be made for the less celluloid-obsessed of these anthologies. A compilation such as "Classic Moods" may offer only shavings of greatness, but greatness it still is, and reaching a wider audience than ever before.

And, while these CDs can be easily derided as aural wallpaper, they might equally well function as a wallpaper book: the portion of Satie or Bach on such an album might easily lead a listener to that composer's dedicated section of the record shelves.

There are already writers — Samuel Johnson, Dorothy Parker — who survive only in quotation, their integral works forgotten, and it is possible that a version of this will happen to certain composers, with Mahler, Copland and Barber the likeliest candidates.

A Labour Party Thatcher can be proud of

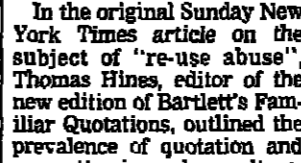
In the original Sunday New York Times article on the subject of "re-use abuse", Thomas Hines, editor of the new edition of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, outlined the prevalence of quotation and excerpting in modern culture.

But the quotation culture is likely to expand. Because of new technology, the art of the past is both more easily recordable and more speedily retrievable, through Internet facilities. This confers some benefits. For example, academic research which might once have taken months — comparison, for example, of certain writers' use of certain words across history — is now possible in a morning's tapping.

And such a development would indeed be an invitation to reflection, perhaps in the "Tranquillity, solitude and melancholy" which the first half of the Classic Moods CD purports to evoke. Barber's Adagio for Strings would suit the mood.

isolate Iran: Japan and Germany have been urged to withhold badly-needed credit and having banned US trade and investment in Iran last year, Congress is now working on legislation that would penalise foreign companies investing more than \$40 million in the country's vital oil and gas industry.

chairman. According to a syndicated press release issued by the university on 5 March, BAT's money will also buy six scholarships for students from developing countries. If the students have to sit an exam, I suggest the following questions — one for every scholarship.



Paul Foot

1. Using your knowledge of the tobacco industry in your country, estimate the effect on international relations of a vast and greedy multinational company which has concentrated its sales of a highly dangerous product in developing countries.

2. Compare and contrast the international relations of a vast and greedy multinational company which has concentrated its sales of a highly dangerous product in developing countries.

3. What effect do you think a company whose combined sales are worth more than the entire national income of most developing countries has on government policy in those countries and its people's freedom of speech? 4. Do you think that a free and fair education system can flourish in a country or university where professors are paid on a sale to tobacco companies? 5. How do you rate the intellectual and moral quality of the statement made on BBC2's Newsnight on March 14 by Michael Priddy, a BAT director, that cigarettes are not addictive because "so many people have kicked the habit"? 6. Can you think of a drug which kills a thousand times more people than heroin? (If so, don't tell your professor).

Ian Black argues that the indictment by Germany of Iran's top spymaster for conspiracy to murder threatens to worsen Tehran's relationship with the West

Shadow of the pariah

NO ONE seriously expects an Iranian minister of intelligence, to turn up in a German court — even after a break during the current Nowruz year high holiday.

But the indictment of Tehran's top spymaster by its closest friend in Europe may still mark a watershed. It is a sign of the world's leading "pariah" states: after gleefully approving suicide bombings designed to wreck the Arab-Israeli peace process, have the mullahs, real daggers under their cloaks, now managed to widen and unite the opposition against them?

Most Europeans do not share this: business interests and pragmatism have dictated the nature of their relationships with Iran since the demise of the Peacock Throne. Germany has always valued its sole, though commercially substantial, Middle Eastern toehold, while Britain's links with Tehran are a central throughfare engagingly named Bobby Sands Avenue.



inspired subversion in Gulf sheikhdoms are not believed locally and evidence is again hard to pin down.

The American "Great Satan" and "Zionist injustice" are still vilified in its newspapers, "hypocrisy" and "arrogance" are the favourite words in its political lexicon. And even Iran's ostensibly principled positions — such as opposing the extension of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty on the terms of the great powers — look much less so if reports of its own nuclear ambitions are to be believed.

It is common ground that Iran supports Hizbullah guerrillas in south Lebanon (even as its ally Syria is trying to rebuff them in), and played a role in two devastating car bomb attacks in Argentina. And there is wide agreement on official Iranian involvement in the killings of dissidents in Europe — and not only in the Berlin assassinations that are upsetting Mr Fallahian's Nowruz holiday.

In recent years Bosnia has been added to America's evil-empire style catalogue of complaints, though ironically Iran was one of the few countries that agreed with the US call to lift the arms embargo. Washington has protested vigorously about mojahedin fighters and trumpeted the recent exposure of Iranian advisers at a Bosnian government dirty-tricks centre, complete with booby-trapped toys.

THE US has done much to

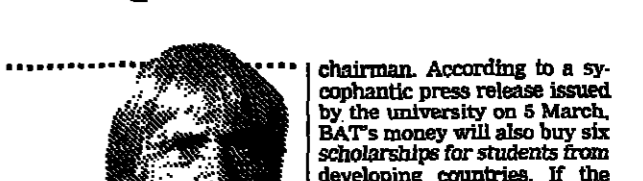
Despite Bonn's belated action against the George Smiley of the Islamic Republic, European Union members are divided over whether to continue their "critical dialogue" with Tehran. Those who do a lot of business say it should go on. Smaller countries which do not have their doubts, Britain, where the Foreign Office often seems to elevate tactics to the level of principle, is on the fence.

Testing times lie ahead for Iran's relationship with Europe: within the next two weeks an EU delegation is to visit Tehran to try to extract the sort of unequivocal condemnation of terrorism the US would like but no one else really wants. While in Washington officials are to meet to discuss intelligence-sharing and other practical moves.

Britain has long and frustrating experience of trying to annul the Rushdie fatwa and seriously doubts that attempts to browbeat Iran will work. Evasion and obfuscation seem far more likely than clear-cut answers from a state where the word terrorism is so often qualified by inverted commas, where one man's suicide-bomber is another man's martyr, and divine retribution really works.

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10 OBITUARIES

William Hutchinson Murray

Monarch of the crags

WILLIAM Hutchinson Murray, who has died aged 83, will be remembered...

His partners, through the winter seasons before the second world war, noted up a tally of ascents now rated as the major inter-war achievements in Scottish winter climbing.

Out of his intense exploratory activity one of mountain writing's enduring texts was forged

The way in which, out of this intense bout of exploratory activity, there was forged one of the enduring texts of mountain writing is itself a romantic saga.



Beyond the world... W H Murray climbing the Granite Ridge of Dumagiri Peak in the Himalayas.

in showers of sparks. The tanks staggered, but came on. They machine-gunned the ground for five minutes till all was still.

There ensued one of those meetings which bring home the human absurdity of warfare. Murray, in the desert night, was wearing only shirt and shorts.

heart give nourishment and life to the will and mind, which, all acting in unison, raise consciousness to a new state of awareness.

Through this will present no problems to those acquainted with the literature of mysticism, to the Gradgrindian faction in mountaineering, it made Murray the target for abuse which has continued to the present day.

only occasionally for meetings of the Scottish mountaineering council of which he was a member.

He had an ability to translate his deep understanding and passion into accessible prose. The Arabs, a history and survey of the modern Arab world, is honest and concise introductory work.

What characterised Peter Mansfield's career was honesty and objectivity. He was committed to the Arab cause, espousing positions which were often unpalatable.

Peter Mansfield

Making Arab sense

PETER MANSFIELD, who has died aged 77, was best known for his 1976 book The Arabs. It was the pinnacle of a career devoted to analysing and reporting the Middle East.

He stayed on in Lebanon working as a freelance journalist, and from 1961-67 he was the Cairo-based Middle East correspondent for the Sunday Times.

Subsequent works included The British in Egypt, The Ottoman Empire and its Successors, Kuwait: Vanguard of the Gulf and his last work, A History of the Middle East. He also edited The Middle East: A Political and Economic Survey and Who's Who in The Arab World.

Peter believed the Oslo Accords gave the Palestinians a realistic chance of statehood. Anxious that many of their grievances might not be satisfactorily addressed, he was a realist who urged that, given the regional balance of power, peace with Israel, even on terms which fell short of Arab aspirations, was a necessary precondition for any progress.

Stephen Sherman Peter Mansfield, writer, born September 2, 1923; died March 9, 1996

Birthdays

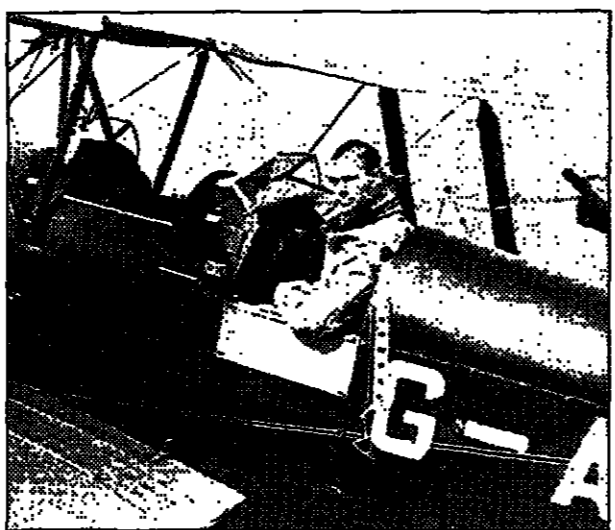
Jung Chang, writer, 44; Stephen Dorrell, MP, Secretary of State for Health, 44; Aretha Franklin, soul singer, 54; Elton John, rock singer, 49; Sir Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, Welsh poet, 82; Richard O'Brien, actor and writer, 54; Dorothy Squires, singer, 81; Gloria Steinem, feminist, 62; Michael Whitlam, director-general, British Red Cross Society, 49; Keith Whitten, chief executive, Midland Bank, 63.

Stuart Wilson-MacDonald

First jets over the Atlantic

IN THE summer of 1948, six De Havilland Vampire single-engine jet fighters of No 54 Squadron, the Royal Air Force took off from Stornoway in the Western Isles. Their first destination was Iceland.

School, a patient of his was the young MacDonald to help him run his Kenyan coffee plantation. The business failed, he returned to Britain in 1931, joined the RAF and became a flying instructor.



Taking off... Wilson-MacDonald on his first solo flight

he was over occupied northern France. He swiftly reconverted to a flying instructor but with the outbreak of war he moved into a frontline combat role.

After a call from an RN destroyer to suppress German guns on an Adriatic island off Dubrovnik, MacDonald sent his wing back to Italy and went 'private raiding', to enable the destroyer to silence the gun emplacement.

Claude Bourdet

Testifying to free France

IF CLAUDE Bourdet, had been a hesitant Resistance fighter, his year spent in Buchenwald concentration camp focused his crusade evermore as one of France's most determined human rights activists.

Captured soon after the German invasion of France in 1940, he escaped and joined the Resistance two years later, co-founding the underground newspaper, Combat. He became its editor after his colleague, Henri Frenay, left for London.



From the heart... Bourdet

French president's suspicion of Communist hegemony in post-war Europe. Between 1956 and 1962 he backed Algerian independence and was a strong critic of French police and army action there.

Jackdaw



Taking the cake

THE "LAUNCH" — the word was new to publishing — of Jacqueline Susann's Love Machine took place in the early spring of 1969, and was accompanied by incredible ballyhoo.

"Ted"), but that was about it. Jackie had been around stars long enough to know that that wasn't enough. If these people were going to sell her book, she loved them, and she would make them love her.

Perhaps the most memorable event of the whole Love Machine campaign was the party at the American Booksellers Association convention. The evening had been designed... to capitalise on the affection that the booksellers felt — or were purported to feel — for Jackie.

cluded a lot of flambe dishes, which Jackie liked because of their drama. Great bursts of flame lit up the room — occasionally accompanied by the smell of singed hair — illuminating, as if in hell, Jackie as she made her way from table to table.

At last the meal dragged to an end. There was a rousing fanfare. The lighting dropped from dim to dark while a hired singer — Tony Bennett had apparently declined — sang the Love Machine theme.

cake moved slowly toward Jackie, but just before it reached her, a bystander, overcome by one too many Love Machine cocktails, slipped and fell into the cake.

MY TEN-YEAR-OLD black cashmere turtleneck is old again. In each succeeding generation, it seems to age more quickly. My wife has worn mine over the years, and I remember the sweater coming off, drawn over her head in that pose, like Picasso's sketch of the nursing mother, that is the quintessence of the feminine. I remember one of

our too-many airports, and clasping her to me when she wailed that sweater, and the press of travellers breaking around us, and then she got on the plane.

Like the black beret, the black cashmere turtleneck is a perfect garment. It accentuates the jawline or, in its absence, suggests it and, by extension, character. It frames the face; it renders the torso more unitary and shapely; it warms; it can be worn casually or under the sport coat or suit as the closest approximation to the required-but-absent shirt

and tie in that contest one will likely but not necessarily lose to the maitre d'... The black beret, the black turtleneck, and... I am hard-pressed to think of the perfect third to round out the company.



Sweating it out... Esquire

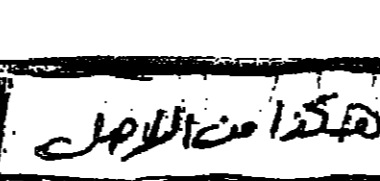
complete Martin Eden. Daniel Farnet gets all hot under the collar over his black cashmere sweater in US Esquire.

No one home DOLE'S defining moment. You probably missed it and I envy you. But I had the misfortune to be home watching CNN recently when the network broadcast an astonishing carnival of cretinism, a stunningly shameless, naked display of cravenness: the South Carolina Republican primary debate.

Does this sound a bit harsh? Maybe it is, but I think a certain degree of caustic language may be required to cut through what seems to be the extremely gentle and euphemistic treatment the mainstream media have been giving Mr Dole's near cataclysmic denouement, barely coherent language and deteriorating cognitive skills.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-733-4086; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3BE.

Dan Glaister



Fallout from BSE may spur Westminster to confront the imminent revenue crisis

Something is rotten in the fiscal fantasy state



Will Hutton

RARELY can the ideology of relaxing "burdensome" rules on business... The consequences across the board, from the trading prospects of beef producers to financial positions of the British government...

at 6.25 per cent this year, when in fact it will grow at below 5 per cent, a shortfall in cash of some £10 billion... The implications are sobering. Even if growth now picks up to meet the Government's over-optimistic targets...



departmental spending has only marginally overshot the projections of 18 months ago... The Treasury is so concerned about its future that it has set up a joint investigation with Customs and Excise...

avoiding and evading tax. Multinationals' facility in reporting profits only in low-tax countries or tax havens grows annually... Nor need it involve a politically damaging rise in the standard rate of income tax...

give an attack on the prospect: the sums are the same for them... But the mainstream political agenda remains dominated by fantasy promises of tax and spending cuts...

cal agenda remains dominated by fantasy promises of tax and spending cuts, with the hope that that a rise in consumption will keep the recovery moving in a non-inflationary way... Edited by Jonathan Michie and John Griev-Smith, Cambridge University Press

Why Clinton is still gripped by insecurity

Worldview

Edward Balls

BILL Clinton will still be in the White House this time next year, or so the Washington consensus believes... The President is riding high in the polls and the economy does not seem likely to go sour...

ONLY 20 per cent of potential Democrats work for large corporations, however... The report proposes tax incentives for companies to train their workers and offer pension and health benefits...

BUT it is the threat of job loss, and the accompanying loss of health coverage and other benefits, which grip public and politicians alike... For, as Clinton campaign guru James Carville argues in a new book, 'We're Right, They're Wrong: A Handbook for Spirited Progressives'...

Revaluing the boffins

Briefing

Richard Thomas

SCIENTISTS rarely enjoy the sort of media exposure they have had over the past week... The government is increasingly concerned with securing value for money from the boffins and promoting economically "relevant" research...

Basic science provides new instruments and techniques, which can find commercial application... The Spru study cites 40 other places of "witchcraft" which attempt to gauge the economic returns to investment in science...

Monetarism brief like a pair of flares

Comment

MONETARISM is back. Not everyone buys it but commentators, including David Walton in last Monday's Guardian, are worried enough about supposed inflation consequences of the latest numbers to resurrect the economic equivalent of flared trousers... Without stable relationships between the money supply and the real economy, monetarism cannot work and advanced economies do not encourage such relationships...

Indicators

Table with columns for Today, Tomorrow, Wednesday, and Thursday, listing various economic indicators like industrial production, FOMC meeting, UK balance of payments, etc.

Tourist rates - bank sells

Table listing exchange rates for various countries: Australia 1.915, France 7.53, Italy 2.90, Singapore 2.11, etc.

Advertisement for 'The UK's Best Deals on P75 Multimedia Systems' by TIME Computer Systems Ltd. Features a desktop system for £967.15, a PowerStation C2 for £1113.90, and a PowerStation D for £1196.15. Includes a list of software titles and contact information.

Racing

Cigar lights up in track work-out

Chris Hawkins on the draw for the Dubai World Cup

THE American champion Cigar... towards the outside at number eight in a field of 11 for Wednesday's Dubai World Cup...

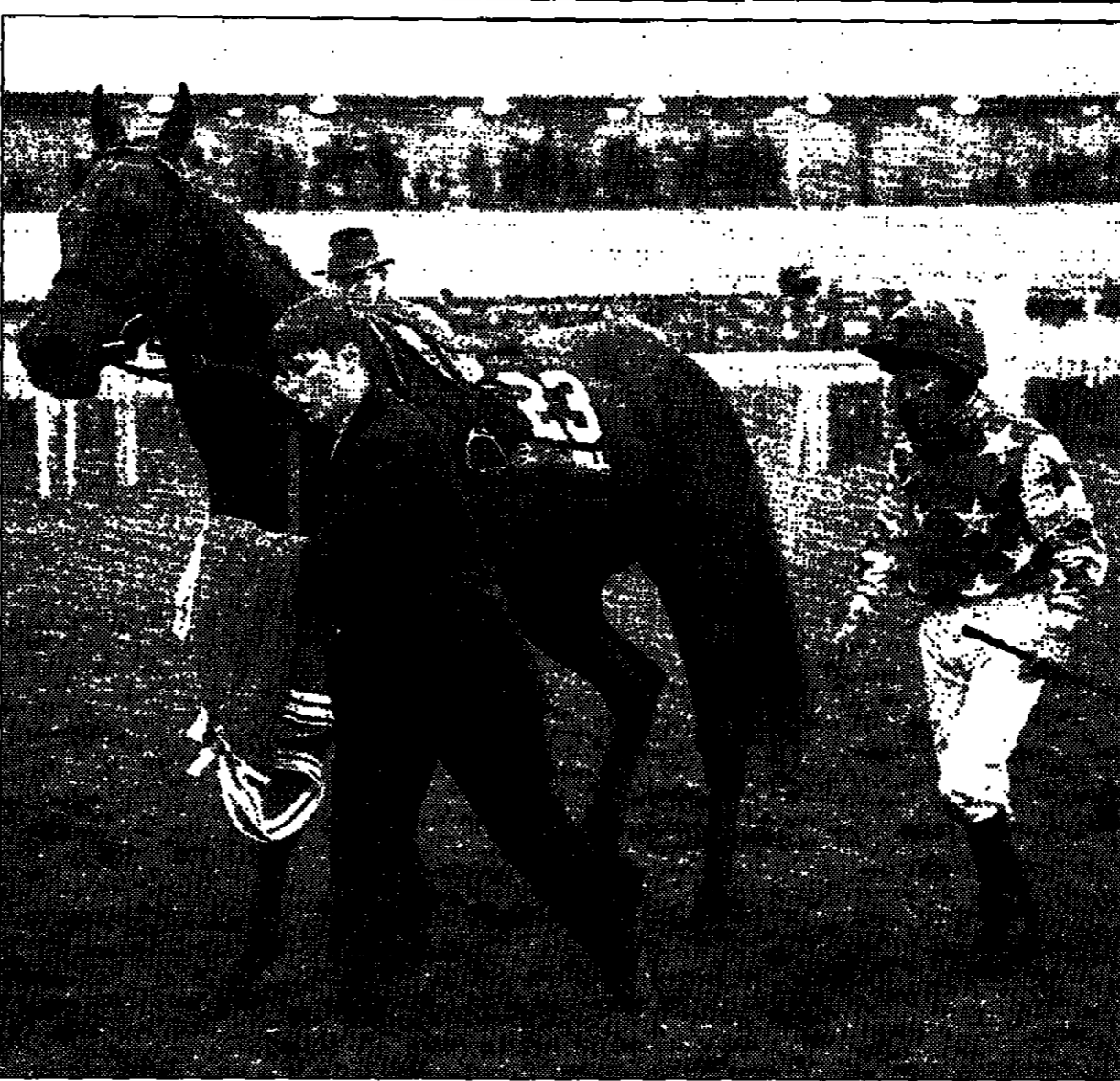
to the Godolphin manager Simon Crisford, is "as good now as he has ever been in his life."

Needle Gun, drawn 10, is a 100-1 shot with Hill's Clive Brittain, his trainer, is used to being the underdog in big international events.

He has won a few of them, but the 20-1 shot has not won any of the 21 races and looks well outclassed against the world's mile and a quarter champion.

Frankie Dettori rides Halling, while Pat Eddery is on Larrocha. This filly was formerly trained by Lucea O'Connell, but is now based in Dubai and represents the United Arab Emirates.

Larrocha, drawn three, won easily at a mile and a half over the course in February, but that seems to be her only win in 10 races.



Lame exercise... Richard Quinn takes his weight off Sharp Prospect, who pulled a muscle in Saturday's Lincoln. PHOTO: JOHN WILSON

Backers on the sharp end again

BACKERS reeling from a series of beaten favourites at the Cheltenham Festival had a sinking feeling of déjà vu after the first big handicap of the Flat season, the William Hill Lincoln, at Doncaster on Saturday.

Richard Quinn said the horse lost his action completely at the point where the round course joins the straight mile.

Superior Finish, who unseated Peter Nicholls at the 10th fence in last year's race, was slashed from 14-1 to 10-1 by Coral and Ladbrokes.

Friday, but seems in good form now. A final decision will be made after his last schooling session on Thursday morning.

Richard Quinn said the horse lost his action completely at the point where the round course joins the straight mile.

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Sport in brief

Front-runner Riley stays a step ahead

WAYNE RILEY's conviction that he is on the verge of becoming a prolific winner on the European golf tour carried him to a hard-fought victory in the Portuguese Open yesterday, writes Michael Britton in Lisbon.

Super franchise for Wasps
DURHAM WASPS, despite having only a tenancy agreement to play at Sunderland, have been awarded one of seven territorially protected franchises by the Ice Hockey Superleague Limited for the new competition starting in September.

Gustafsson tops the form

MAGNUS GUSTAFSSON upset the form book and a partisan Russian crowd by beating tennis world No. 7 Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-2, 7-4 in the final of the St Petersburg Open.

Azharuddin keeps captaincy

MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN has retained his place as India's cricket captain for next month's Sharjah Cup and a limited-overs tournament in Singapore.

Stunning net profit

MIDDLESEX's Tracy Miller scored an amazing 33 goals from 39 attempts as she led England's netball team to a comfortable 10-32 victory and the Home International Series trophy at the Bunyuan Centre in Bedford.

Doyle presidency backed

MEMBERS of the British Cycling Federation have backed their president Tony Doyle. The former world champion, elected in December after an acrimonious campaign, survived by votes of 17 to a proposal from the board of directors to cancel his appointment.

Folkestone with form for the Jackpot races

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details. Includes 1.30 Antelope, 2.30 Lloid (Group), 4.30 Paddock of Britain, 4.50 Mithras.

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Hexham jumping programme

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details. Includes 2.00 Generator, 2.30 True Spirit, 3.00 True Spirit.

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Fontwell National Hunt card

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details. Includes 2.10 Belfair, 2.40 Rainbow Castle, 2.10 General Power.

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Rain check

ALDERBROOK will only run in Saturday's Martell Aintree Hurdle if the ground is 'softish', said Kim Bailey yesterday.

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RACELINE 0930 168+ COMMENTARY FOLKESTONE 101 201 102 202 103 203

14 SPORTS NEWS

SOCCER: FERGUSON'S MEN TIRE BUT STILL MOVE THREE POINTS AHEAD OF TROUBLED NEWCASTLE

Premiership: Manchester United 1, Tottenham Hotspur 0

United again thank Cantona

Cynthia Bateman

MANCHESTER United secured the three points that moved them a short head in front of Newcastle, but this was a pretty tired pony by the time the finishing line was crossed. And although the victory came from another piece of devilish cunning and exquisite skill by Eric Cantona, the win was greeted out with gritted teeth, with each player needing a jockey on his shoulder to whip him up the final straight.

Compared with the speed and flair against Arsenal on Wednesday, this was a leaden-footed United. "It has been a big week for us, and we showed a few nerves among the younger players. But Eric Cantona is an inspiration. I get tired of saying how magnificent he is," said Alex Ferguson.

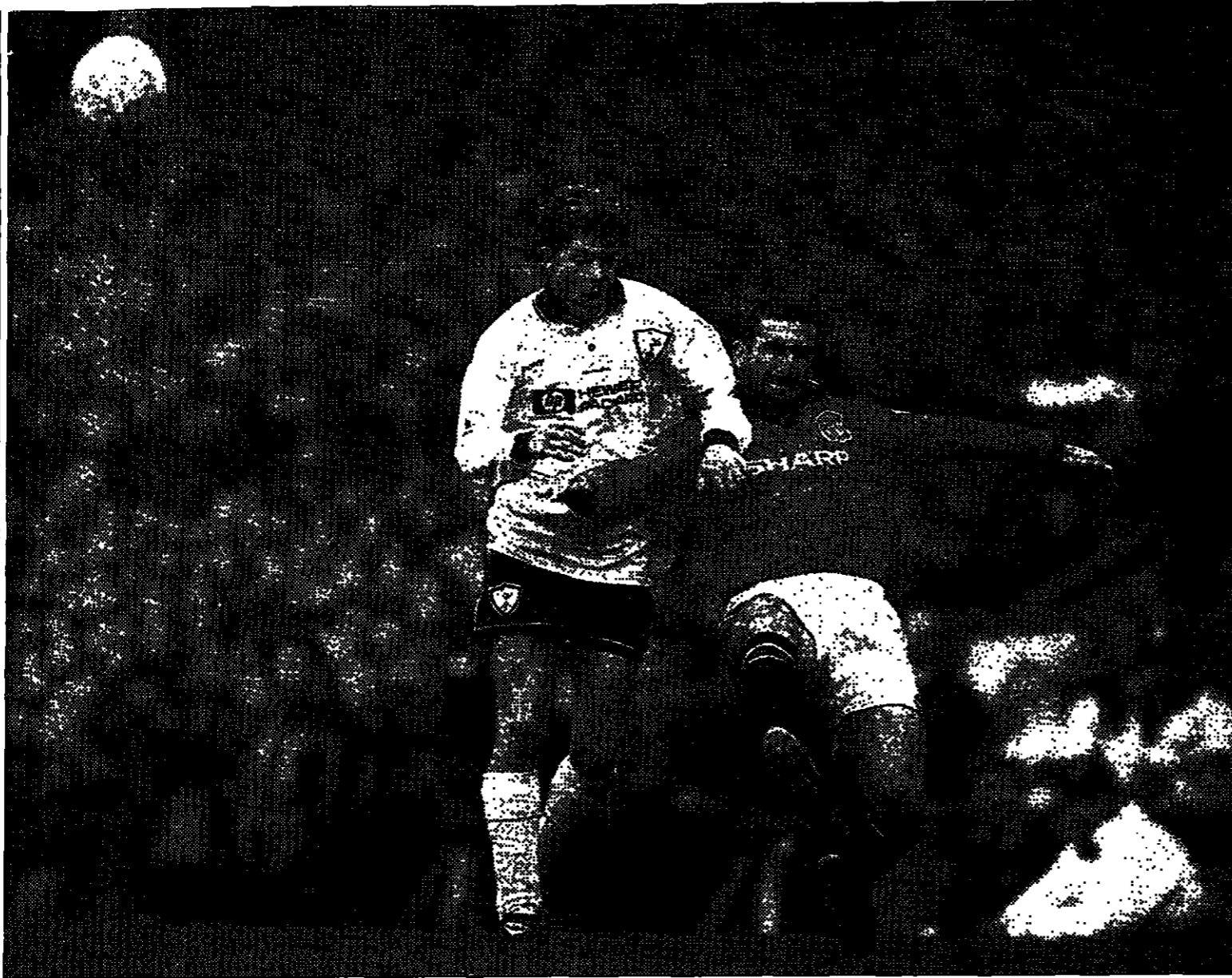
Cantona, with his fifth goal in five games — goals that have earned United 10 points from a possible 12 — rescued them with his strike five minutes into the second half.

Until then it had not looked as though it was going to be United's day. The first warning that maybe they had got out of bed the wrong side came with Schmeichel's miscued clearance in the opening seconds.

It did not take a naturally aggressive Tottenham long to realise that they would not have to work any harder than usual to catch out United, and the first half-hour belonged to them. Sheringham's casual header just wide at the start provided early warning. And when Howells was able to get through with a shot, the first of several Schmeichel was forced to tip away for corners. Spurs' self-belief became almost tangible.

Fox on the right flank took full advantage of Phil Neville, whose exciting week in which he was named in the England squad seemed to have taken its toll. The 19-year-old looked exhausted and could not contain Fox early on.

But it was the oldest United head, that of the 35-year-old captain Bruce, which gave Tottenham their best chance when he let a ball run towards his goalkeeper and



Weight on Cantona... United's scorer tries to turn provider, scooping the ball into the middle despite Austin's attentions. PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL STEELE

found Armstrong chasing it. Fortunately for United the striker failed to chip the advancing Schmeichel.

Cole, with whom Ferguson kept faith despite the fact that Scholes, on the bench, has scored more goals in half as many appearances, looked lively in the first half and was perfectly placed when Giggs crossed. But the £7 million striker produced a weak shot

straight at Walker, who was rarely troubled thereafter. Ferguson appeared to take advantage of Butt's treatment on the sidelines to whisper some instructions in the midfielder's ear, for shortly afterwards Phil Neville moved to right-back, with Sharpe and Giggs taking over the left flank. "The midfield were finding it difficult to get to grips with the game," said

United's manager. "By cutting out Sheringham we improved our chances. That won the game for us."

That and some good work by Phil Neville before he was substituted. His pass allowed Cantona to take on the Spurs defence, which was temporarily out of kilter waiting for Nethercott to replace the injured Mabbutt. The crowd saw it coming, the buzz a kind

of "Look who's behind you" pantomime warning. By the time Spurs did, Cantona was through. His left-foot, low drive beat the diving Walker to finish in the right-hand corner.

Gerry Francis said words, refereeing decisions had cost his team the game, particularly when, as television proved, Spurs should have had a corner just before Can-

Arsenal 2, Newcastle United 0

Magpies stay off balance

Commentary

David Lacey

WALKING on water was always a tricky business. For months Newcastle United have put their faith in the Messianic management of Kevin Keegan. Now, if they are going to win the championship, they will have to start learning to swim against the tide.

At Highbury Newcastle floundered. They conceded a goal in three minutes, another after 17, and from then on either missed the target, hit its outer edges or drew free saves from Seaman.

Manchester United went top again on their day off. Two months earlier Newcastle had led the Premiership by 12 points. Their next game is at Liverpool. No wonder Keegan wore the look of a man watching his creation dissolve before his eyes. As eloquent in defeat as he has been in victory, the Newcastle manager filled reporters' notebooks and mini-tapes with a lucid assessment of what had gone wrong. Basically his argument was that half the team had not performed.

"You can carry one or two players," Keegan declared. "You can't carry five or six." Ferdinand, Ginola, Asprilla, Beardsley, Lee... none of the big names were spared.

"When we play like that," he said, "the players leave themselves open to criticism. I'm not going to defend it. I'm there to be shot at as well."

Verbally at least, Keegan performed several times better than his team. As he left the interview room at Highbury there was even a ripple of applause. However, his statements did not quite add up, for it was not so much a question of individuals performing badly as players again struggling to make sense of a fresh script and new stage directions. The balance of Newcastle's team is severely disturbed and the only person responsible for that is Keegan himself.

Take Asprilla. By his own lights the Colombian performed well. He set up a series of early chances for Ferdinand and late in the match turned beautifully through the Arsenal defence before beating Seaman with a cross-kick which grazed off the outside of the far post.

Yet Asprilla is a catalyst and, by definition, will not change his way of playing, however much he influences those around him. Unhappily for Newcastle this influence is threatening to outweigh any advantages that his individual skills might bring.

His control is extraordinary. At times the ball appears to be tied to his bootlaces. But to ac-

commodate Asprilla, Beardsley is being withdrawn to a deep position on the right, stretching to breaking point his contact with Ferdinand.

In the second half Beardsley moved more to the middle and Asprilla went wide. But the Colombian's natural desire to take on defenders with the ball still meant that Newcastle were not enjoying the consistent crosses that Gillespie was giving them before he was injured, and before Asprilla arrived.

On the left Ginola's ability to glide past opponents was unimpaired but the Frenchman is producing neither the quality of centre nor the accuracy of shot that distinguished his football earlier in the season. As a result of all this Ferdinand is no longer enjoying the service that once exploited his prime assets of speed and heading power, and this has surely contributed to his recent loss of scoring form.

Newcastle are, in essence, a push-and-run side. Asprilla is an accomplished dribbler but holds things up. As an old Liverpool player, Keegan should not have forgotten the basic Anfield philosophy that the more three men depends on the ball the less a colleague will have to make use of it.

Errors in defence led to this defeat. If anything, the principal difference between the teams key in the contrasting performances of the full-backs. For Arsenal, Dixon and Winterburn, easily fitting in with Bruce Rioch's switch to three centre-backs, were occasionally outwitted by Ginola or Asprilla but were never exposed as consistently as Barton and Beardsley.

Defending has never been Newcastle's strongest point, and this is part of their charm. But the charm became a curse as Marshall headed Arsenal in front in the third minute, Lingard's philosophy that the more three men depends on the ball the less a colleague will have to make use of it.

Newcastle could win their four remaining home matches and still be caught short for the title. Somehow they are going to have to take at least six points from their visits to Liverpool, Blackburn, Leeds United and Nottingham Forest.

Keegan has 10 days to sort out his thoughts for the match at Anfield on Wednesday week. The question of how long Beardsley and Asprilla can continue to play together in attack may occupy his mind.

Successful Arsenal Marshall (2min), Wright (7).
Arsenal's Seaman; Dixon, Keown, Morgan, Marshall, Winterburn (Injury), Barton, Fox, Howells, Howells, Wright (Penalty 40).
Newcastle's Beardsley, Smeeth; Barton (Wilson, 55), Albert, Howey, Beardsley, Beardsley, Lee, Batty, Ginola, Asprilla, Ferdinand; P. Davison (Portsmouth).

Everton 2, Wimbledon 4

Kinnear's men at a canter

Ian Ross

THE youngster in the Goodison Park foyer was anxious to complete his whistle-stop tour of Everton's ground by having the manager, Joe Kinnear, sign his autograph book. Politely he asked one of the match-day stewards if that were possible.

"Best leave it. Joe is probably still shouting at his players," came the reply.

Actually he was not. He had already berated his team for their appalling sloppiness, declared himself to be "puzzled" during an understandably brief news conference, and headed for either the bar or the drawing board.

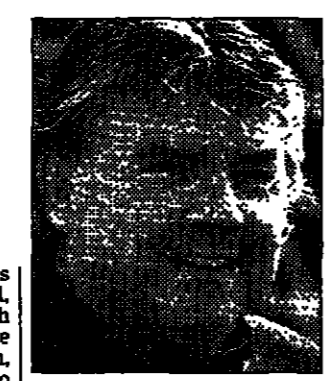
Royie believes his team can qualify for next season's UEFA Cup; his players would seem

to disagree. Wimbledon's need was the greater and, although they trailed with 29 minutes of quite wretched match still to run, they won by a distance to move smartly clear of those thrashing about at the foot of the table.

"This is a fantastic result for us and I think it will set us up to be still playing in the Premier League for another season," said an exuberant Joe Kinnear.

Quite right, too. Having removed the menace from their football Wimbledon, believe it or not, are now eminently watchable.

Everton were awful: their defence would not have stopped a sneeze, and once Ferguson's effectiveness had been eroded by fatigue they lacked the collective enthusiasm to chase lost causes.



Kinnear... delighted

The irony is they could have won, once headed goals by Craig Short and Andrei Kanchelskis had erased the memory of Marcus Gayle's early strike.

Even after the substitute Stewart Castledine had swept in the equaliser, Wimbledon's hesitancy and lack of ambition seemed likely to be their undoing.

The game was there for the taking, a theory that Kinnear's men subscribed to only after goals by Andy Clarke and Jon Goodman, in the dying minutes, had reduced Everton to rubble.

At the final whistle the Everton crowd stood to applaud Wimbledon as they left the pitch. What next? Acceptance? Surely not.

Successful: Everton Short (31min), Kanchelskis (61), Clarke (85), Castledine (84), Clarke (85), Goodman (88).
Everton: Southall, Holliger, Watson, Short, Minchillole, Kanchelskis, Horne, Elliott (Ferguson), n.b. Linpar, Stuart (Amokachi, 55), Ferguson.
Wimbledon: Sullivan; Cunningham, Kirby, Perry, Leitch, Egan, Jones (Castledine, 20), Blackwell, Eshak (Goodman, 59), Clarke.
Referee: R. Dicks (Macclesfield).

Chelsea 1, Queens Park Rangers 1

Time and tide running against Wilkins' team

Richard Williams

DESPERATE to get his side out of trouble, Ray Wilkins had planned to play at Stamford Bridge, which would have made a poignant sight. It is 21 years since, as an astonishingly mature teenager, he captained a Chelsea team that slipped out of the old First Division, bringing down the curtain on the King's Road era. A couple of years later he took them back up again, before packing his bags for Old Trafford, San Siro, and other destinations.

Returning to the Bridge on Saturday at the helm of another team faced with the drop, Wilkins told us that only a calf-muscle strain had kept him fretting on the sidelines. Instead QPR's 39-year-old player-manager was forced to watch as, thanks to Bolton's victory, his team fell to the bottom despite taking a point against his old club.

And however appealing the thought, it is probably too late for him to take a significant role in a match such as this, played at high pace and for high stakes.

Wilkins confirmed that he would not be adding other fresh legs to the squad before Thursday's transfer deadline, Rangers having only six Pre-

miership games remaining. His gut feeling was that the existing squad would do the job. "The last two performances, against Manchester United and Chelsea, gave me a lot of encouragement. In normal circumstances they would have been very good results. But the players are apprehensive, and when apprehension creeps into the minds of young players it helps to tire them during a game. And when they get tired they lose concentration."

"My players are mostly young men, and it's been a tough season for them, so we're seeing some lapses of concentration."

One of those lapses, in central defence, led to Chelsea taking the lead in the eighth minute, through Spencer's simple headed goal from Wise's right-wing cross. The visitors wobbled but refused to fall, and 11 minutes later Barker crashed in a drive after Sinclair had crossed to Dichio, who knocked the ball back into Barker's path. Thereafter the best chances were spurned by Chelsea, notably an 80th-minute cross by Guillit to Furlong, if Chelsea get that far, but he will be working hard to regain his fitness in time to prove a point to United on Sunday.

Successful: Chelsea Spencer (6min), QPR Barker (19).
Chelsea: Hitchcock, Patrascu, Lee (Johnson, 60min), Duberry, Clarke, Phelan, Barry, Wise, Guillit, Spencer (Penalty, 58), Hughes (Furlong, 58), Gary Somers; Beardsley, McDonald, Maddie (Ready, 40), Bennett, Yates (Brazier, 88), Barker, Sinclair, Insey, Lathan (Barry, 87), Dichio.
Referee: M. Pate (Birmingham)

O'Neil set to face Australia after Scotland lose six men

Patrick Glenn

IN 24 hours, Celtic's defender Brian O'Neil captured the unpredictability of football by being transformed from a spectator at Motherwell to a probable member of Scotland's team against Australia at Hampden Park on Wednesday.

O'Neil, who has played only four times for his club after 10 months out with knee ligament damage, was summoned by Scotland's manager Craig Brown yesterday as six of the original squad dropped out.

The 23-year-old central defender has been left out of Motherwell on Saturday. But with Tottenham's Colin Calderwood and Alan McLaren of Rangers among the call-offs, he was drafted in.

The other withdrawals were the striker Duncan Ferguson, midfielder Stuart McCall, goalkeeper Andy Goram and full-back Tosh McKinlay.

O'Neil said: "The game is

all about taking opportunities. If there are doubts about my readiness for international, I may have the chance to find out on Wednesday. But I feel fit enough."

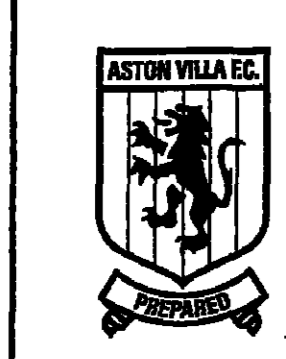
Ferguson's predictable absence makes the Chelsea striker John Spencer a near-certain starter. "He's very hot at the moment," said Brown.

In the title chase, Rangers' 3-2 home win over Falkirk was unimpressive but the result may be deeply significant. Celtic's draw extended the Ibrox side's lead to five points with six matches remaining.

Paul Gascoigne scored the opening goal — his seventh in his last eight games — and looked the only Rangers player capable of making the telling pass. Erik Bo Andersen gave the home side a two-goal lead and re-established it 11 minutes from time, his first goals for the club.

Another Dane, Morten Wieghorst, could have won the match at The Park for Celtic but he headed wide from only five yards.

"The boys done great Brian!"



CONGRATULATIONS TO ASTON VILLA F.C.
COCA COLA CUP WINNERS 1996



Soccer

Premiership: Nottingham Forest 1, Liverpool 0

Collymore runs the gauntlet

THE lady with bulging eyes was unimpressed by the police escort which accompanied Liverpool to the City Ground on Saturday. "More like a Fiesta," she hissed before digging deep into her vocabulary to hurl a Judas insult at Stan Collymore.

It is sad when someone who has given such great service to a club gets a reception like that when he comes back, said Liverpool's manager Roy Evans. His Forest counterpart Frank Clark agreed: "It wasn't a nice atmosphere but unfortunately that sort of thing happens in football nowadays."

Forest's goal came out of nowhere when James led to Harry on Pearce's long-range shot. Cooper was first to react, whipping the ball across goal for Stone to ram home. Liverpool should already have been well ahead but, thinking themselves indestructible after 30 games unbeaten, never made full use of ample possession.

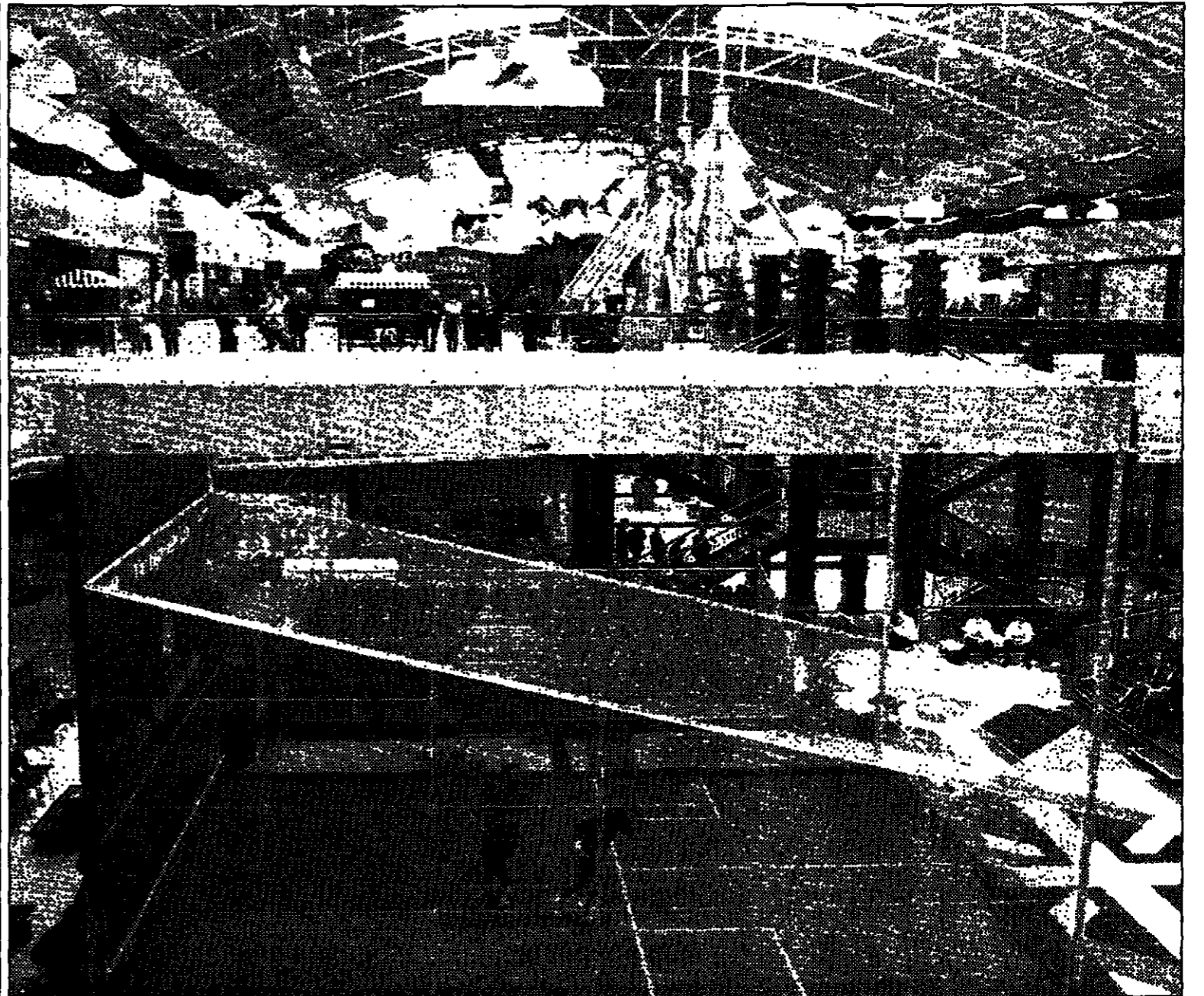
West Ham United 4, Manchester City 2

Hammer blows for City

INTERNATIONAL Rescue, despite having five representatives on the crash scene, is struggling to pull Manchester City from the teetering brink of the Premiership precipice. Better send for Thunderbird right now Saturday.

City's prospects would have been less daunting had just one thing gone right on Saturday. They failed to clear a corner properly to let in Dowie for the first goal. Rösler then wasted three decent chances before Curle missed a penalty after Kinklade's twinkle-toed run was ended by Bilic's less-sophisticated right foot.

West Ham's own, scored, Miklosos fumbling Hiley's shot and Quinn following up. But West Ham's advantage eventually told. Dicks made it 3-1 with a 20-yard blast before Bishop's silky pass and Dani's shimmering skill made it 4-1.



Playing to The Galleria... Hatfield shoppers enjoy the inventive play of the new experimental point-per-rally scoring system



Harris... 'moving well'

Martin pays price for Harris speed

RICHARD HARRIS followed Friday's starting victory over the world champion Jansher Khatri by winning the Equitable Life Super Series at the Hatfield shopping centre in Hatfield yesterday. It was arguably the best success by a British man since 1972 when Barry Stammers last won the British Open.

Resex defeated Australia's Brett Martin, the No. 3, 10-9, 7-9, 9-4, 6-9, 9-2 in an entertaining final in which his blistering speed of foot narrowly gained him the advantage over the game's most talented strokemaker. Harris had to save a game point in the first game and recovered from the disappointment of losing the fourth quickly after Martin left the court for three min-

Weekend results

Soccer

COCA-COLA CUP Final: Arsenal 1, Chelsea 1. FA CUP Final: Manchester United 1, Tottenham Hotspur 0.

English League

Table with 3 columns: Division, Team, Points. Lists results for First, Second, and Third Divisions.

Scottish League

Table with 3 columns: Division, Team, Points. Lists results for Scottish leagues.

Rugby Union

Table with 3 columns: Competition, Team, Points. Lists results for various rugby competitions.

Rugby League

Table with 3 columns: Competition, Team, Points. Lists results for rugby league matches.

Goat

Table with 3 columns: Competition, Team, Points. Lists results for goat racing events.

Basketball

Table with 3 columns: Competition, Team, Points. Lists results for basketball games.

Alpine Skiing

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FA Trophy

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FA Cup

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Scottish Cup

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Rugby League

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Goat

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Basketball

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Alpine Skiing

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Real Tennis

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Figure Skating

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Ice Hockey

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Advertisement for flag waving supporters, featuring a large image of a flag and contact information for 0800 000 111.

SportsGuardian

STRIKER SETS UP RECORD-EQUALLING LEAGUE CUP VICTORY

Coca-Cola Cup, final: Aston Villa 3, Leeds United 0

Milosevic leads Villa's final assault

David Lacey at Wembley

THIS season's League Cup was won by a set of full-bodied claret at the expense of some distinctly inferior whites. In the trophy's 36-year history there have been few more distinguished winners than Aston Villa, and even fewer teams so thoroughly beaten as were Leeds United yesterday.

Apart from a brief spell at the start of each half, Brian Little's side were the masters of the occasion. Their victory, the biggest winning margin since Oxford United beat Queens Park Rangers by the same score 10 years ago, in no way flattered them. Leeds never really recovered from the shock of falling behind to a superb shot from Savo Milosevic midway through the first half. Yet if the big, awkward-looking Serb instigated Villa's triumph, the true inspiration was to be found elsewhere: in Draper's tireless creative influence, for example, which steadily upstaged McAllister; and in Yorke's capacity to find meaningful space in an endless variety of positions. Leeds were not expected to win, but neither were they expected to lose quite so limply. Had yesterday's guest of honour, Virginia Bottomley, had anything to write in Leeds, it might have been closed at half-time. By then the purpose of their existence was certainly open to question.

Howard Wilkinson, Leeds's manager, tried to present Villa with a mirror-image of himself but merely succeeded in emphasising the qualities of the real thing. Whatever persuaded him to leave Deane and Brolin on the bench at the start, it did nothing for his team's cause. The 18-year-old Andy Gray — son of Frank, nephew of Eddie — achieved more in only his fourth full first-team match than did others with infinitely more experience. When McAllister is subbed, as he was yesterday, Leeds are a pedestrian, prosaic side. Fears of a dour stalemate proved unfounded. Both teams began with five at the back, but Villa have used this formation as an attacking platform all season and it was largely their speed on the break which kept the football open for the rest.

Villa were much busier between the penalty areas. Yorke was everywhere, Draper was dominant, Townsend and Taylor were increasingly the masters of Palmer

and Ford. McAllister did make one exceptional 60-yard dash for Leeds but the effect of this was nullified by Speed's poor centre, a moment that rather summed up his team's afternoon.

Gray began confidently, showing good control and outwitting Southgate just past the quarter-hour before curling a shot past the far angle of post and bar, but too little of consequence came through to Yeboah.

The first goal, scored after 20 minutes, stemmed from Leeds's uncertainties in midfield. Townsend intercepted a vague pass from Speed and found Milosevic in a lot of space. Pemberton was the nearest defender but backed off, fatally as it turned out. Milosevic took the ball on half a dozen yards and then unleashed a wonderful shot from just outside the penalty arc. Lukic was beaten as much by the ball's flight, which saw it dip in under the bar, as its pace.

Villa always appeared likely winners after that. Their confidence, high at the start, bubbled away even more merrily. The authority at the back of McGrath, Southgate, and Ebiogu with his occasionally inspired passes was absolute.

Gray did begin the second half with a couple of narrow-angle, close-range shots from the left but Leeds's optimism was brief. Villa's passing and teamwork were still far superior and they soon increased their lead.

In the 55th minute Draper and Townsend combined to release Wright on the left. The full-back's deep, searching centre to the far post found Radebe facing his own net with Milosevic coming in behind him. Radebe opted for a first-time overhead clearance and the ball came straight out to Taylor, who walloped it back past Lukic.

Villa's third goal, in the penultimate minute, was almost an afterthought. Milosevic gathered a pass from Draper and slipped the ball past Pemberton for Yorke to embellish his excellent performance with a firm shot into the roof of the net.

So Villa, the first League Cup winners, have now won three times, equalling Liverpool's record. If they repeat yesterday's performance in next Sunday's FA Cup semi-finals they could be Liverpool's equals at Old Trafford.

Leeds Villa: Speed; Ebiogu, McGrath, Southgate, Charles, Taylor, Draper, Townsend, Wright, Yorke, Milosevic. **Leeds** Lukic, Kelly, Pennington, Wetherall, Radebe (Brolin, Smith), Palmer, Ford (Deane, H-o), McAllister, Palmer, Southgate, Gray.



First blood to Villa... the trusty left foot of Savo Milosevic powers a shot past John Pemberton to put his side a goal up at Wembley yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE MORTON

Wilkinson's team fail to ignite after the fireworks

Jeremy Alexander on a one-sided final that brought a smile to the face of Yorke but left supporters from Yorkshire scowling

YORKE v Yeboah was the billing — Y v Y. Why oh why is more to the point. Nobody remembers the League Cup's *raison d'être* or its winners, except perhaps Swindon defeating Arsenal in 1969. For 36 years it has congested the calendar, resisting the League's best en-

deavours to raise its status — the move to Wembley, the ticket to Europe. Even now the Premiership clubs view it with contempt in September, consideration in November and commitment only in the new year.

without prestige. Yesterday's effort by the League was to invite the Heritage Secretary. Going by the teams, it would have done better with Overseas Development; going by the promise of its sponsors, perhaps the Paymaster General. Coca-Cola gave Villa £100,000, Leeds £50,000.

Brolin, on the Leeds bench, cost £4.5 million. There was the £5 programme, which gave 16 Leeds pen portraits but omitted Gray, their best player, and Ford. There was thundering music and fireworks and then Virginia Bottomley wrapped in an NHS blanket. And finally, when all razzmatazz was spent, there was a run-of-the-mill match.

Just how surreal it was became apparent after 20 minutes when Milosevic scored. It was no more than his team-mate Taylor had forecast after a handful of misses against Ipswich in the FA Cup that is truly part of the heritage. Joking afterwards he had said: "I bet Savo scores the most important goal of the season." Many a true word... It was the beginning of the end for Howard Wilkinson, who was almost speechless afterwards. "It's always an emotional day

coming here," he said, adding: "I would imagine." It was his first visit. Brian Little insists there is always a smile in his changing room. None presents it more on the field than Yorke, who could teach his friend Brian Lara a lesson. Townsend was named Man of the Match, his reward the Alan Harker Trophy. Ah yes, he was the *raison d'être*, when the League was at loggerheads with the FA.

Athletes chase £10m prize money in world events

Stephen Brierley in Cape Town

FOR the first time in the sport's history the International Amateur Athletic Federation will pay prize money at its major meetings, beginning with the world indoor championships in Paris next March.

"We must follow life in a realistic manner," said the IAAF president Primo Nebiolo after yesterday's announcement, which followed a long council meeting here. The IAAF has been under increasing pressure from its athletes to pay prize money at the world championships.

Now there will be money for the first eight in each event at both the outdoor and indoor world championships and the World Cup. There will also be bonuses for world records.

The world outdoor championships will attract the highest prizes, with the winners expected to receive more than £80,000. Women will have parity with men. The likely cost for the three championships is more than £10 million.

The IAAF has changed the programme for the Atlanta Olympics this summer to allow Michael Johnson (200 and 400 metres) and Carl Lewis (100m and long jump) to double up.

Guardian Crossword No 20,609. A grid of numbers for a crossword puzzle.

Guardian Crossword No 20,609

Set by Crispa

- Across: 1. Turning up soft rendering to loud is repellent (4,3); 5. Prison sentence causing strain (7); 9. Take over from a steward about fifty (7); 10. Thomas returned a highball — a charity business (7); 11. 16 responsible for government policy? (9); 12. Such fibre is put first by the French (5); 13. Continental university that's superior (5); 15. Guidelines for stalls on either side of a road (8); 17. Stuff obtainable from tubes and cans (8); 19. Equestrian appendage (5); 22. Disapproved of — making a comeback just the same (3,2); 23. Cheats drew in pounds maybe in an ocean-going vessel (9).

Set by Crispa

- 14. Enlarging no longer on service (8); 16. People taking in cameras for respect (8); 17. A light shaft, naturally (7); 18. Pair with one bird only to get another (7); 20. Clothing shortened, study in the city (7); 21. Stock book (7); 23. Cut, but not totally disheartened by it (5); 24. Having a large number to bring up can be so depressing (5).

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled-in letters.

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